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Kim et al.

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(54) **SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES AND METHODS OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME**

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This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

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H01L 29/10 (2006.01)
H01L 29/08 (2006.01)
H01L 21/306 (2006.01)
H01L 29/66 (2006.01)
H01L 21/265 (2006.01)
H01L 29/78 (2006.01)
H01L 21/762 (2006.01)
H01L 29/165 (2006.01)
H01L 21/324 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **H01L 29/165** (2013.01); **H01L 29/1037** (2013.01); **H01L 29/0847** (2013.01); **H01L 21/30608** (2013.01); **H01L 29/66545** (2013.01); **H01L 21/26586** (2013.01); **H01L 29/7834** (2013.01); **H01L 29/7835** (2013.01); **H01L 21/26593** (2013.01); **H01L 21/76237** (2013.01); **H01L 21/30604** (2013.01); **H01L 21/324** (2013.01); **H01L 29/7848** (2013.01); **H01L 21/26506** (2013.01); **H01L 29/66636** (2013.01); **H01L 29/6659** (2013.01); **H01L 29/6653** (2013.01); **H01L 29/66621** (2013.01)

USPC **438/739**; 257/E21.09; 257/E21.409; 257/E21.431; 257/E21.619; 257/E21.634; 438/198; 438/299; 438/300; 438/303; 438/478; 438/735

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC 257/E21.09, E21.409, E21.431, 257/E21.619, E21.634

See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method of manufacturing a transistor of a semiconductor device, the method including forming a gate pattern on a semiconductor substrate, forming a spacer on a sidewall of the gate pattern, wet etching the semiconductor substrate to form a first recess in the semiconductor substrate, wherein the first recess is adjacent to the spacer, and wet etching the first recess to form a second recess in the semiconductor substrate.

20 Claims, 28 Drawing Sheets

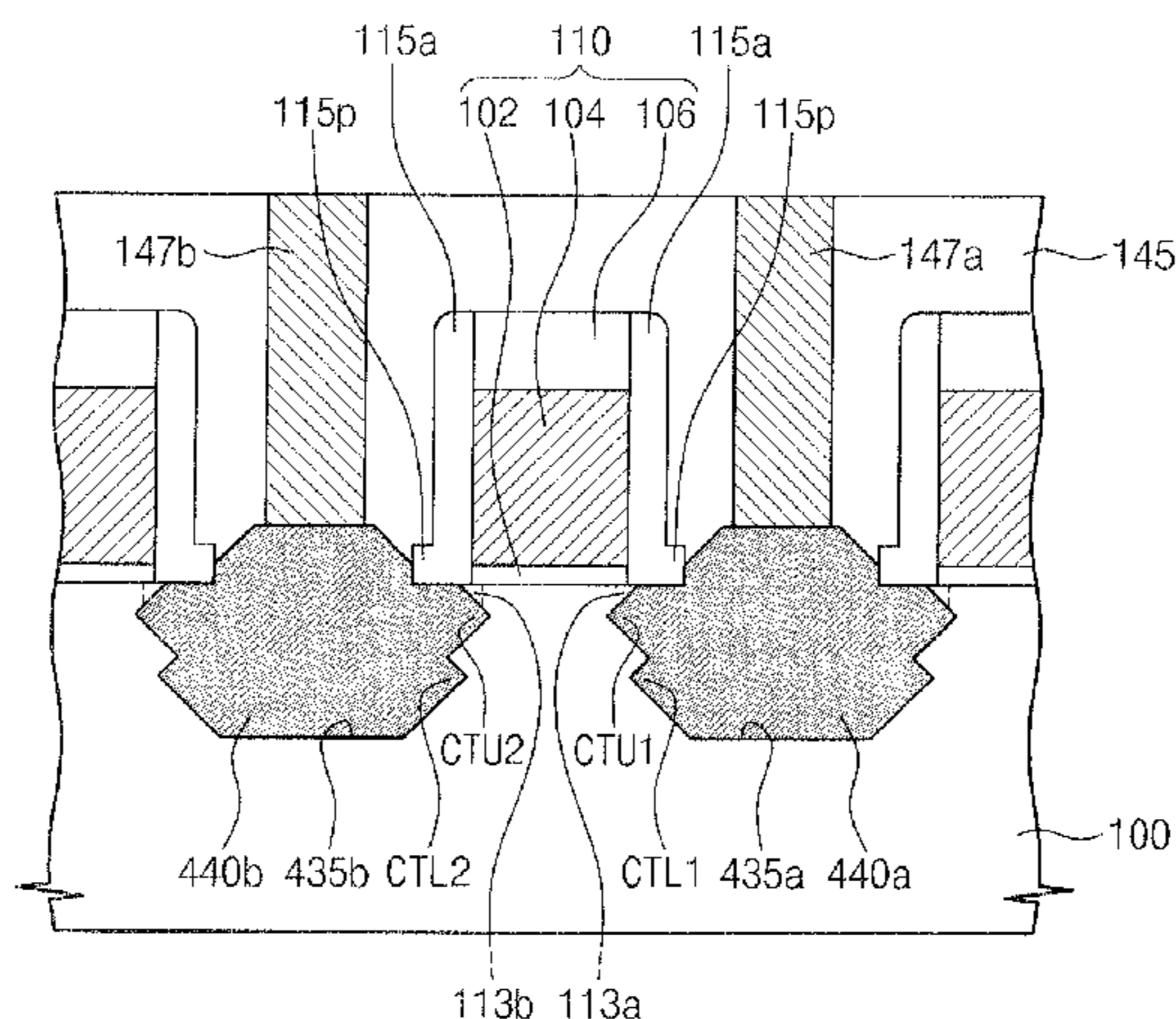


Fig. 1A

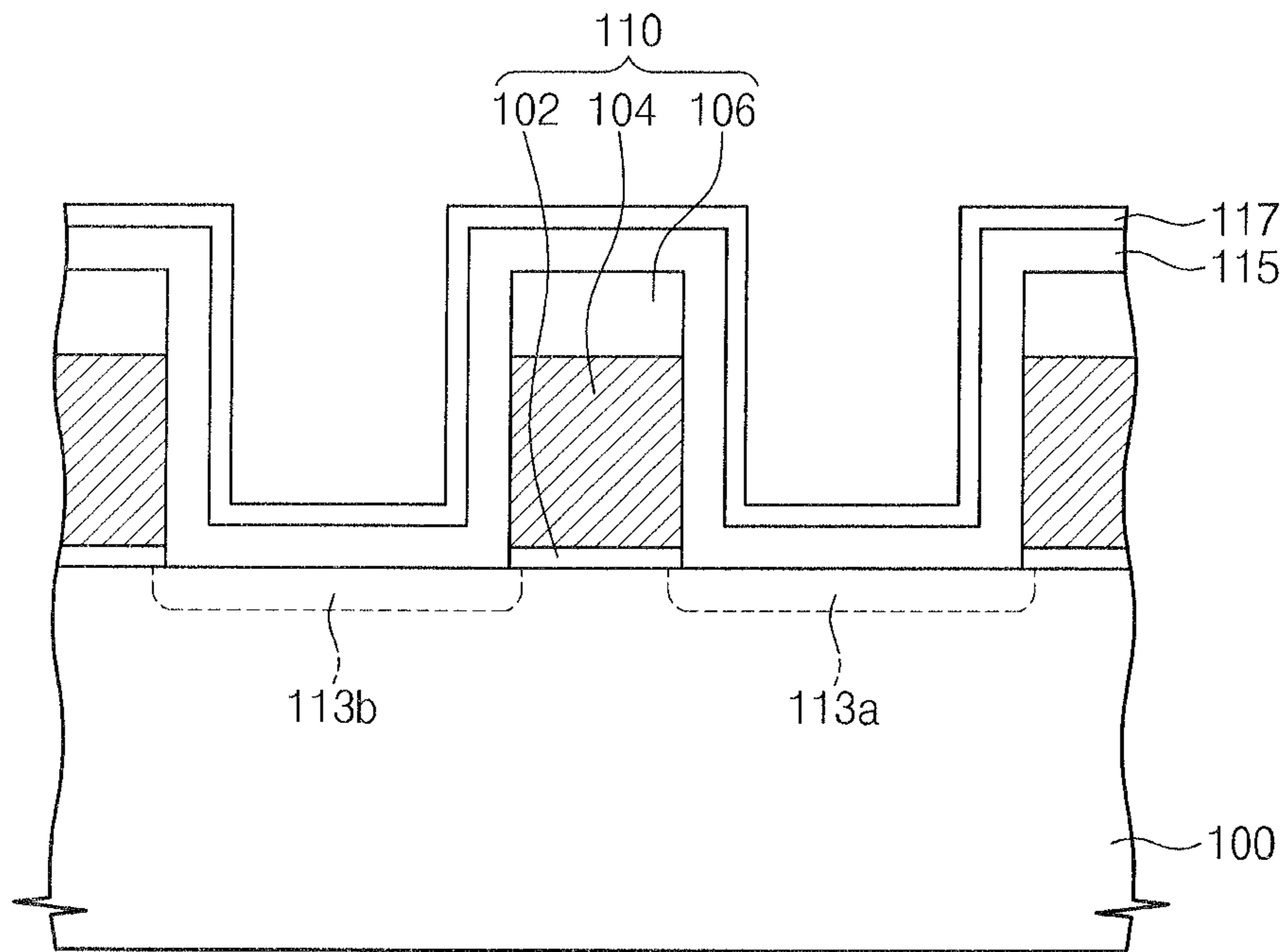


Fig. 1B

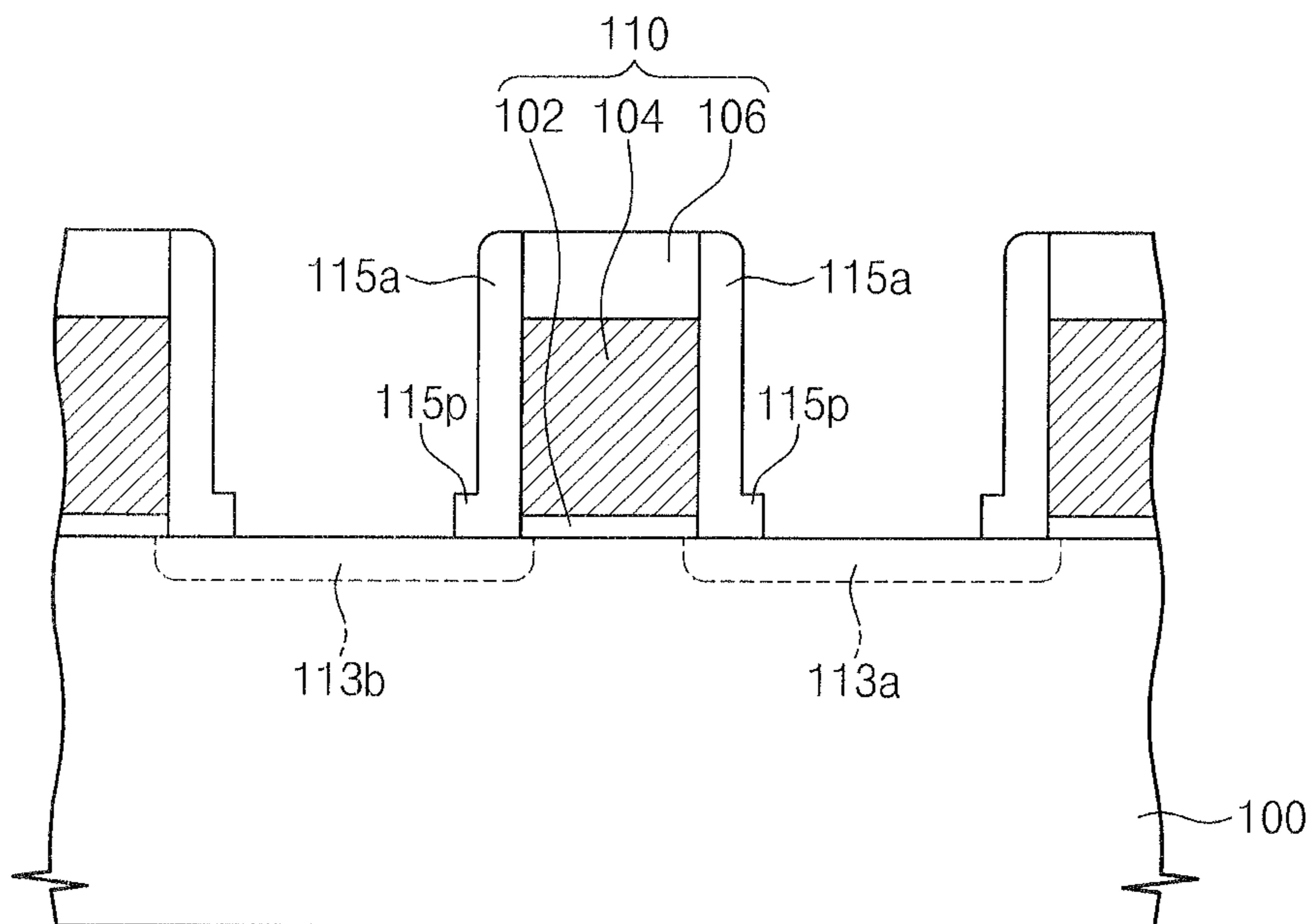


Fig. 1C

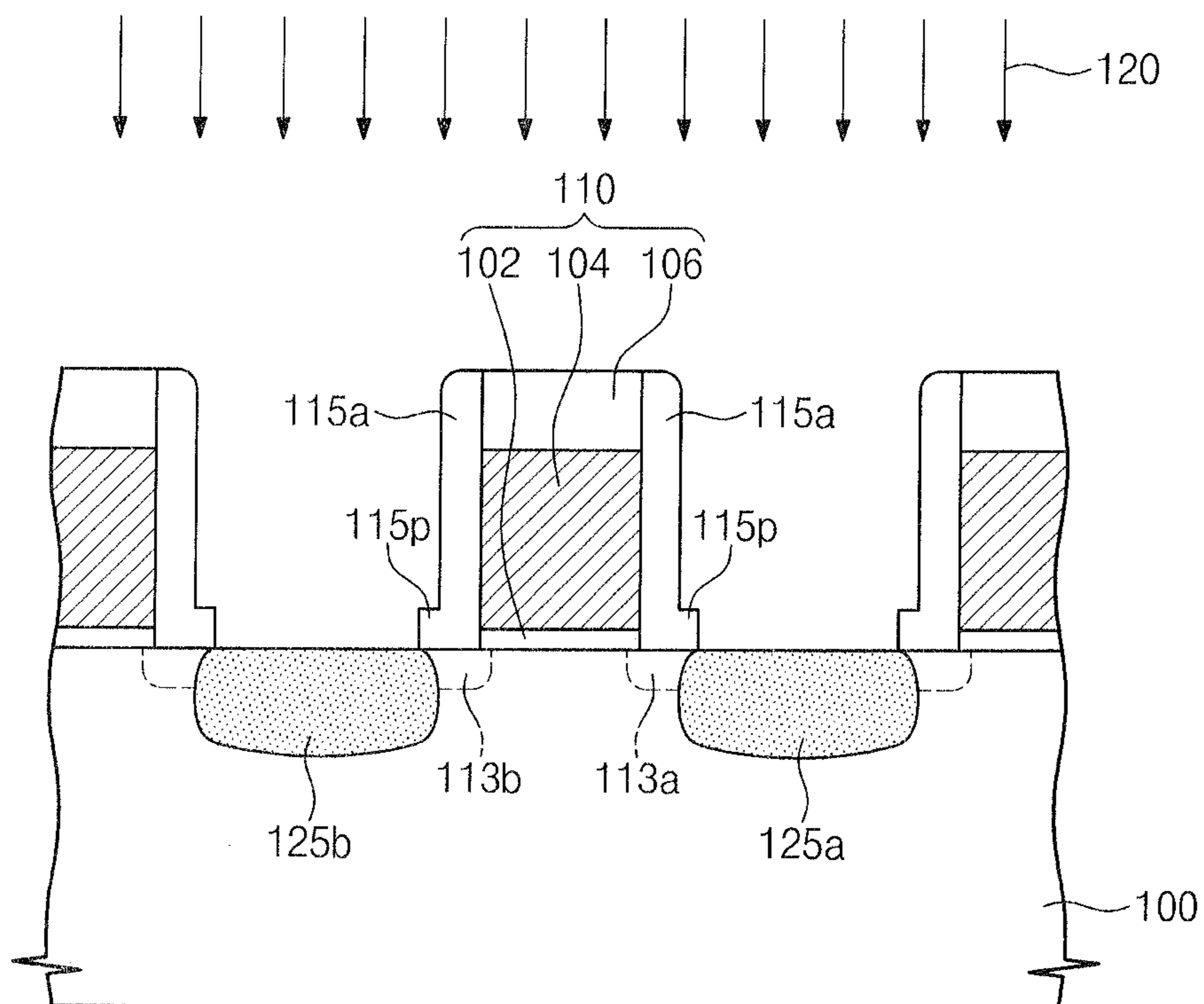


Fig. 1D

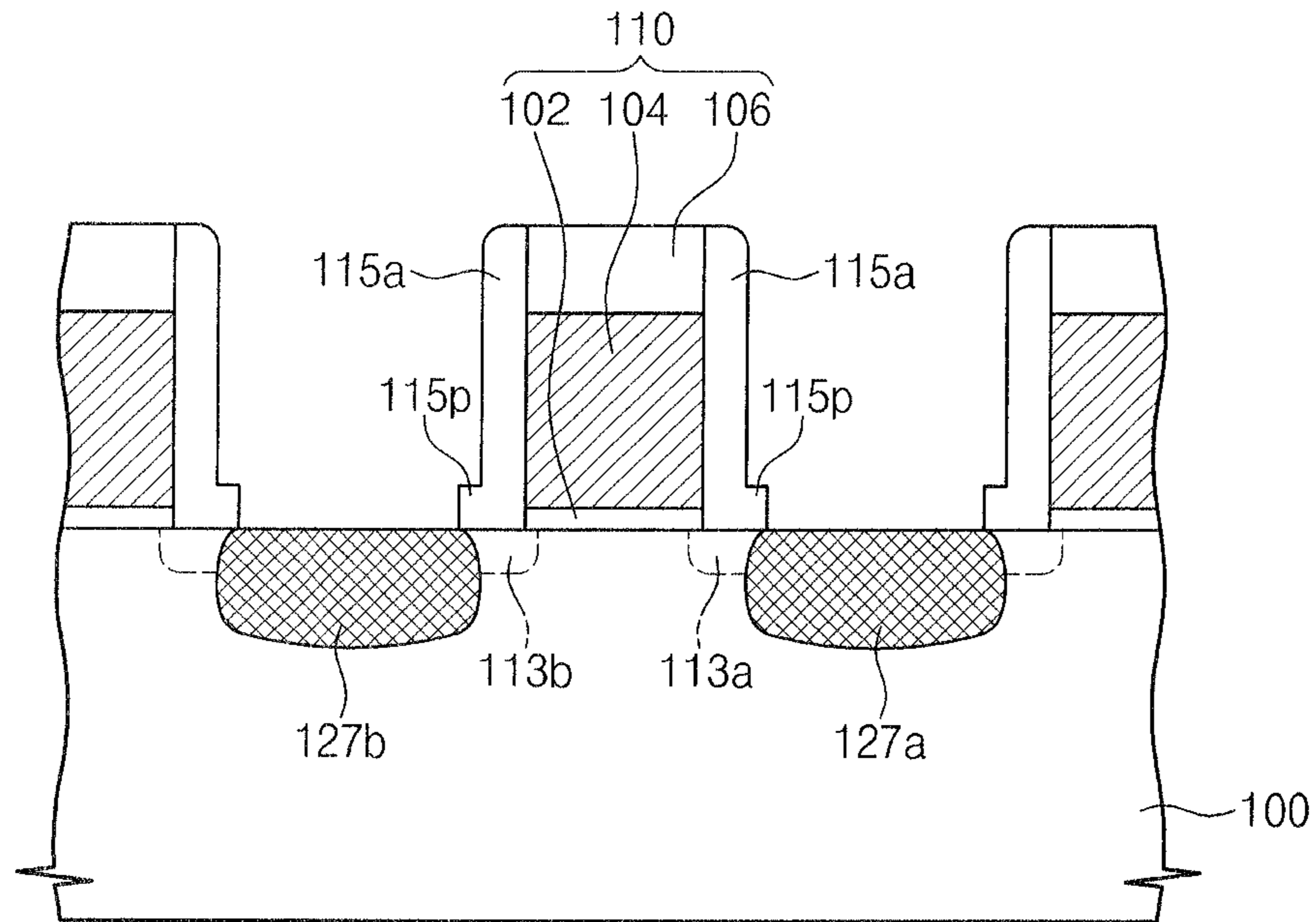


Fig. 1E

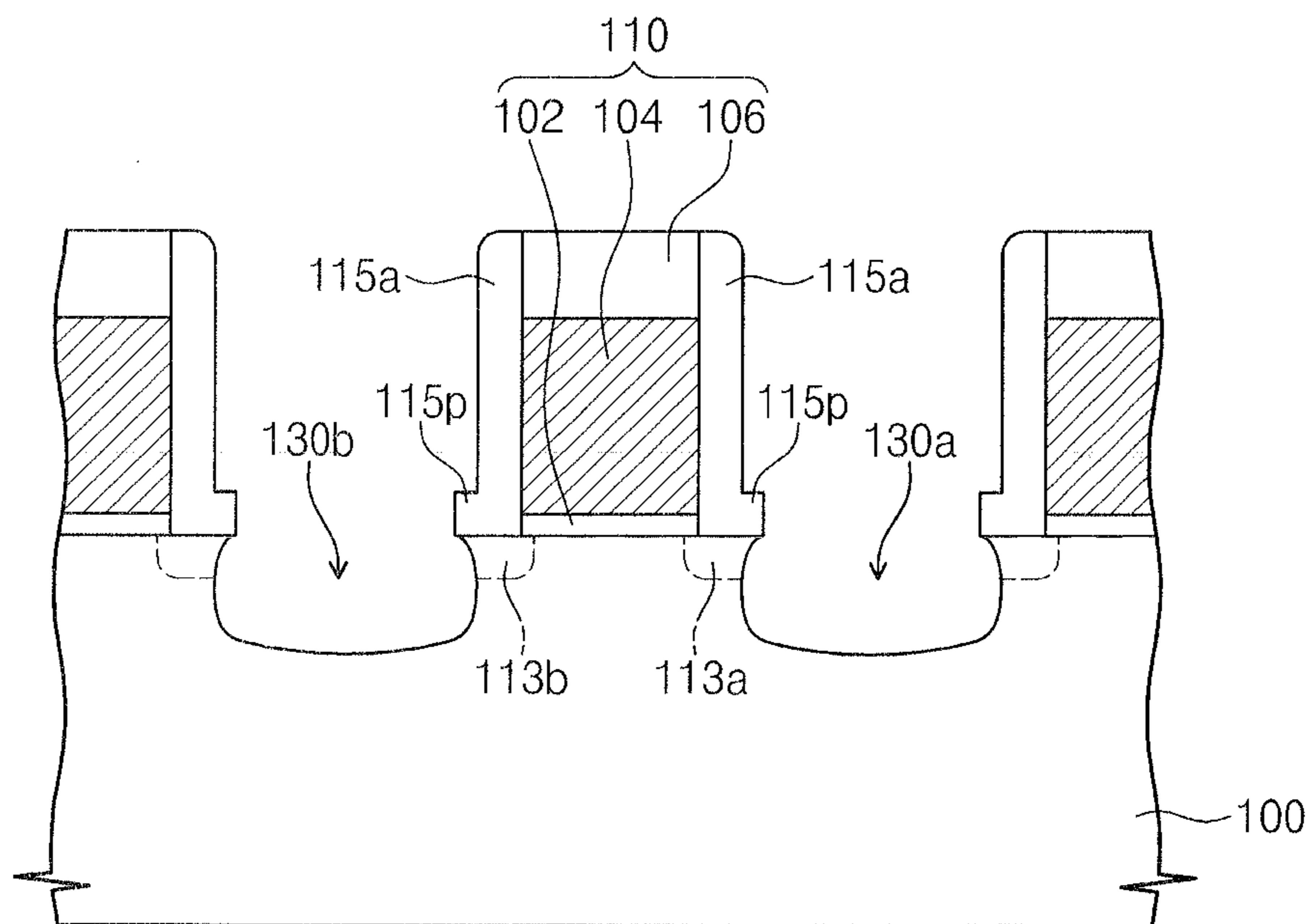


Fig. 1F

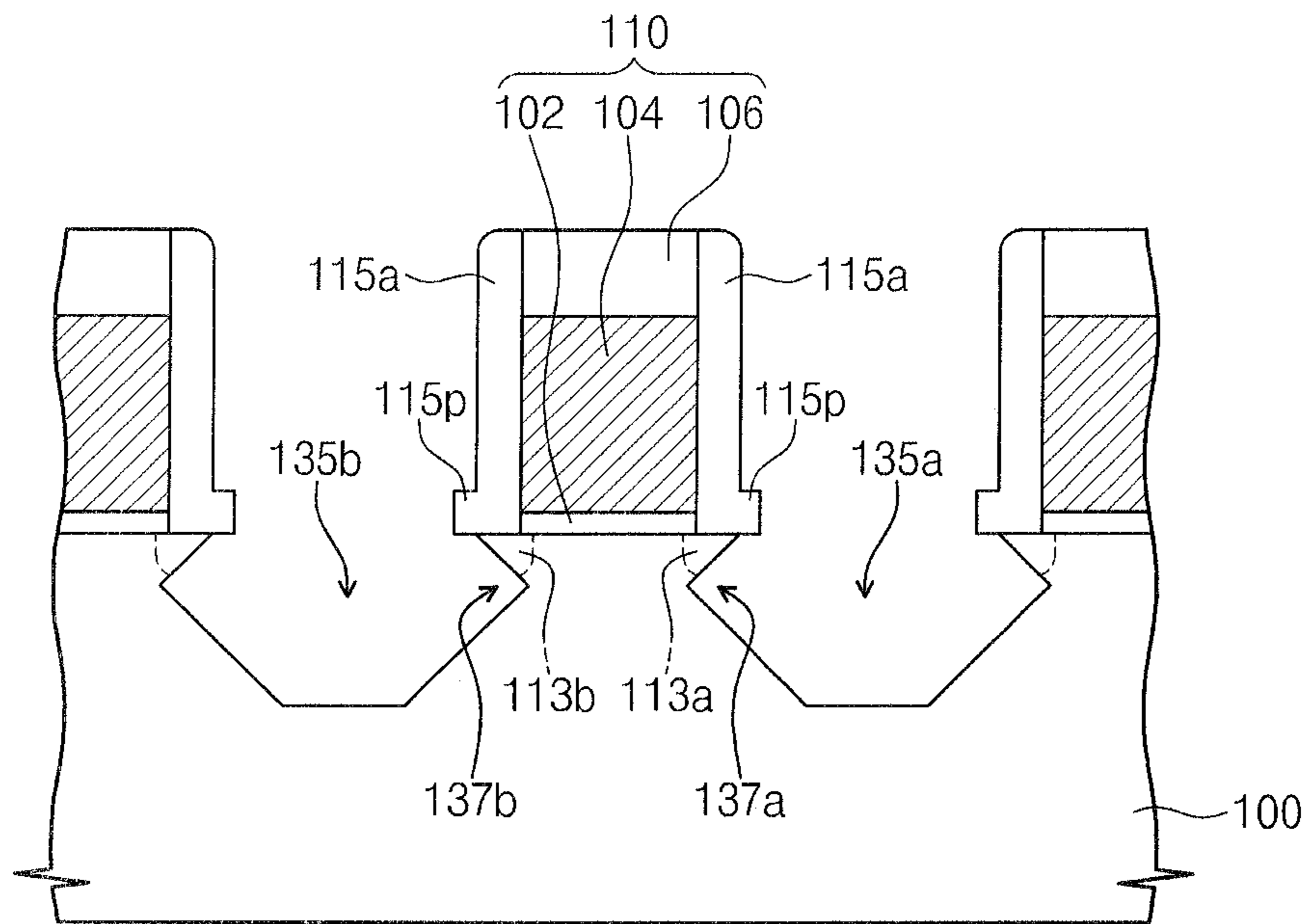


Fig. 1G

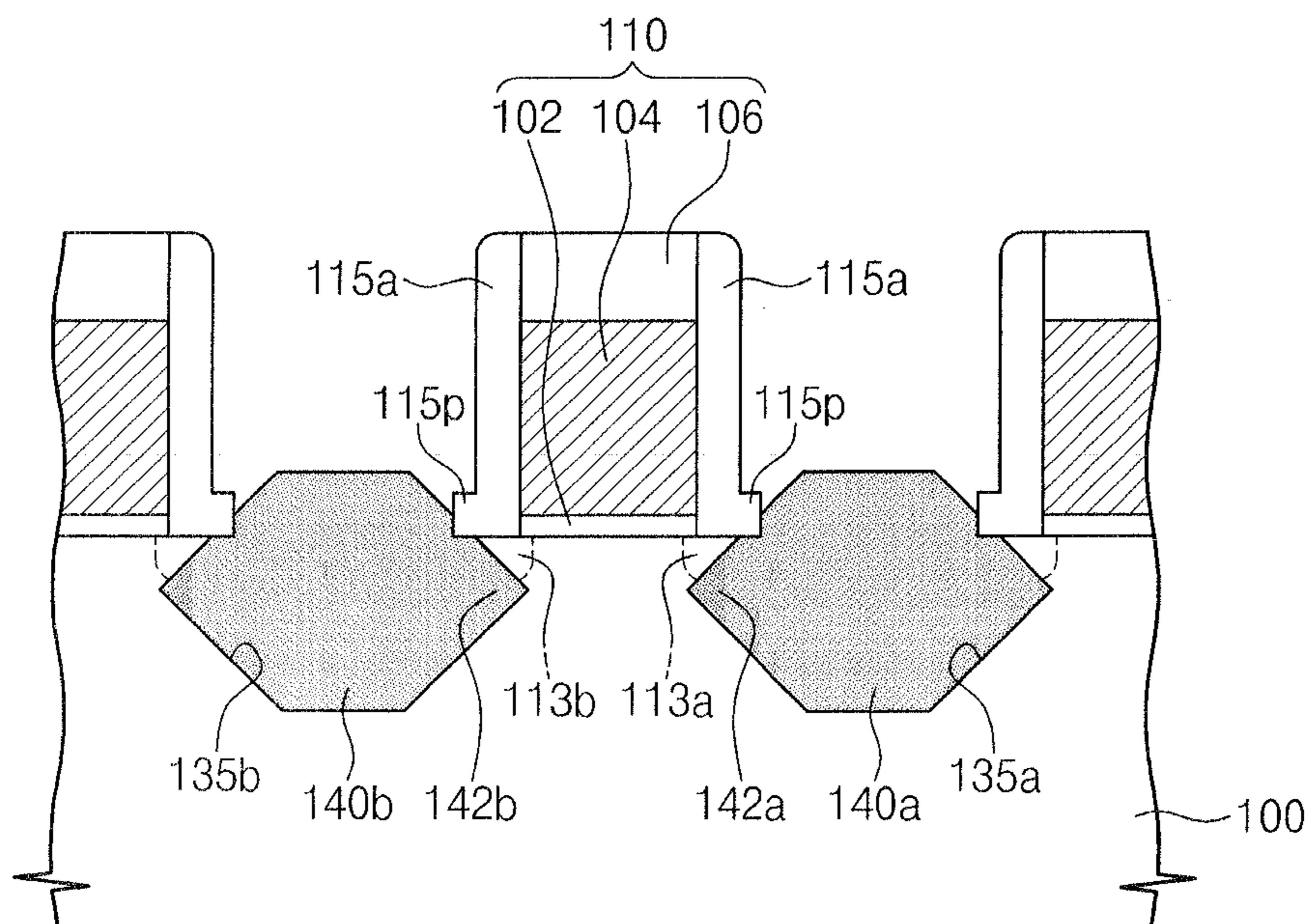


Fig. 2

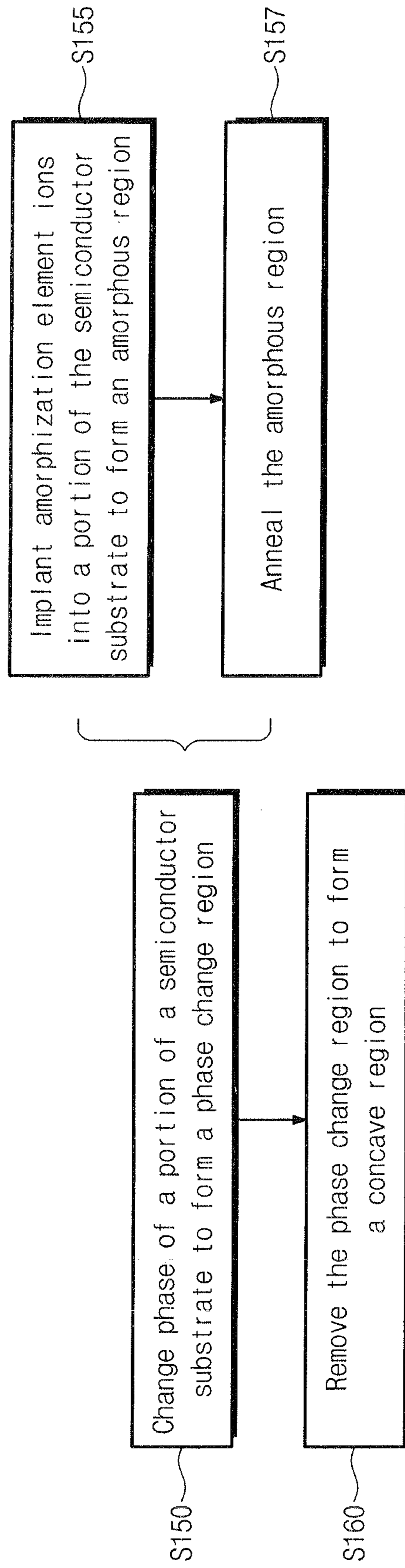


Fig. 3A

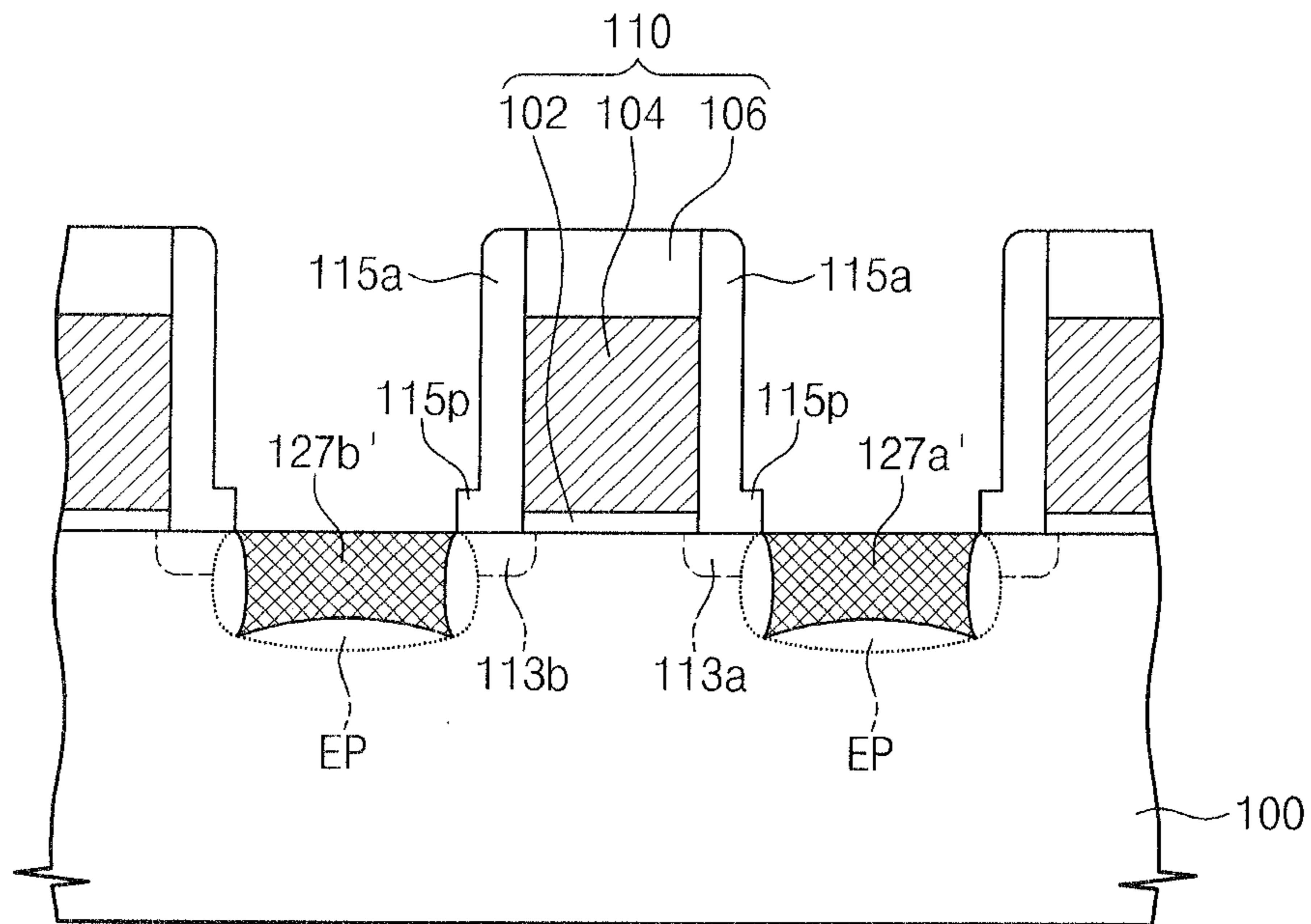


Fig. 3B

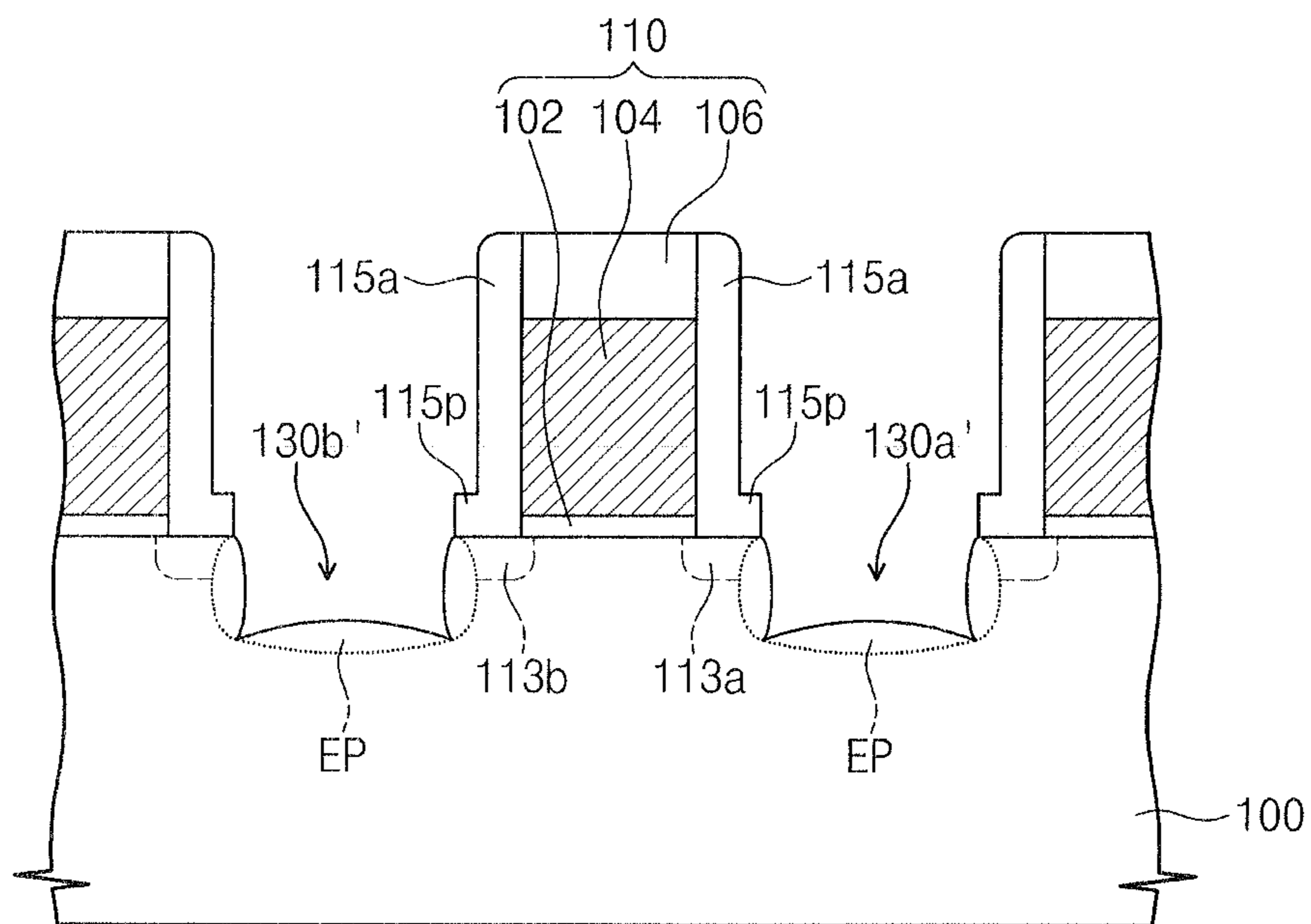


Fig. 4A

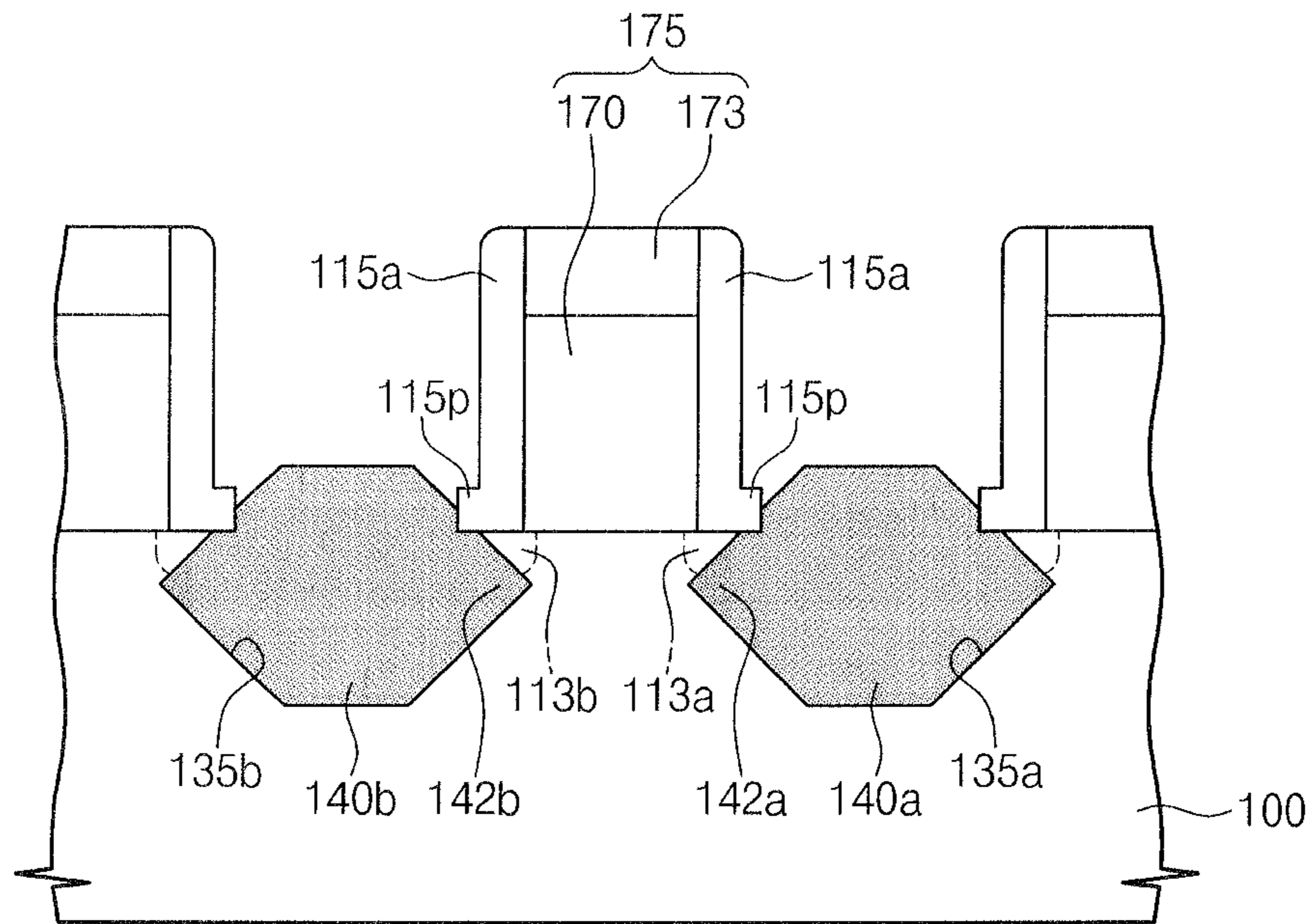


Fig. 4B

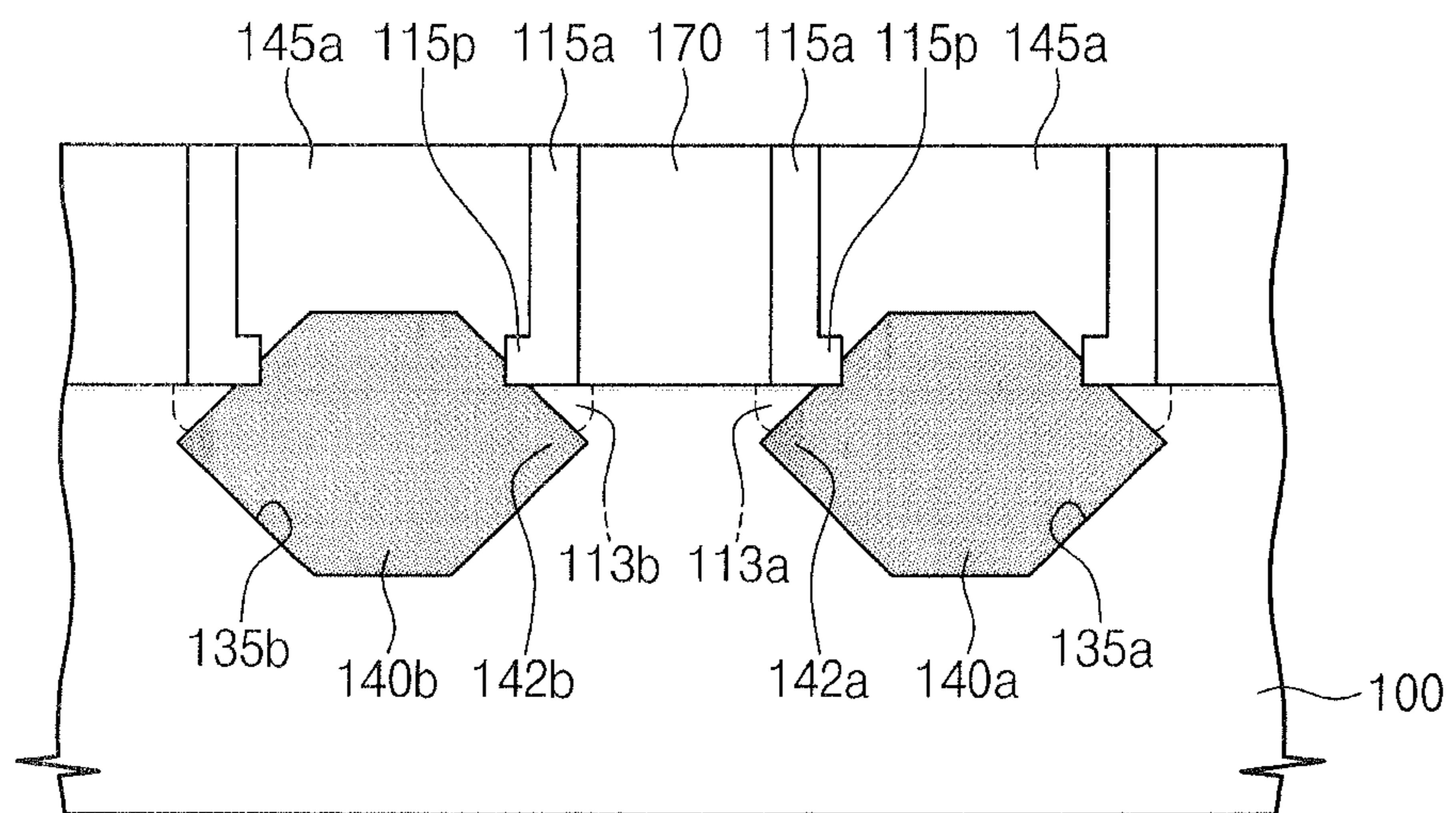


Fig. 4C

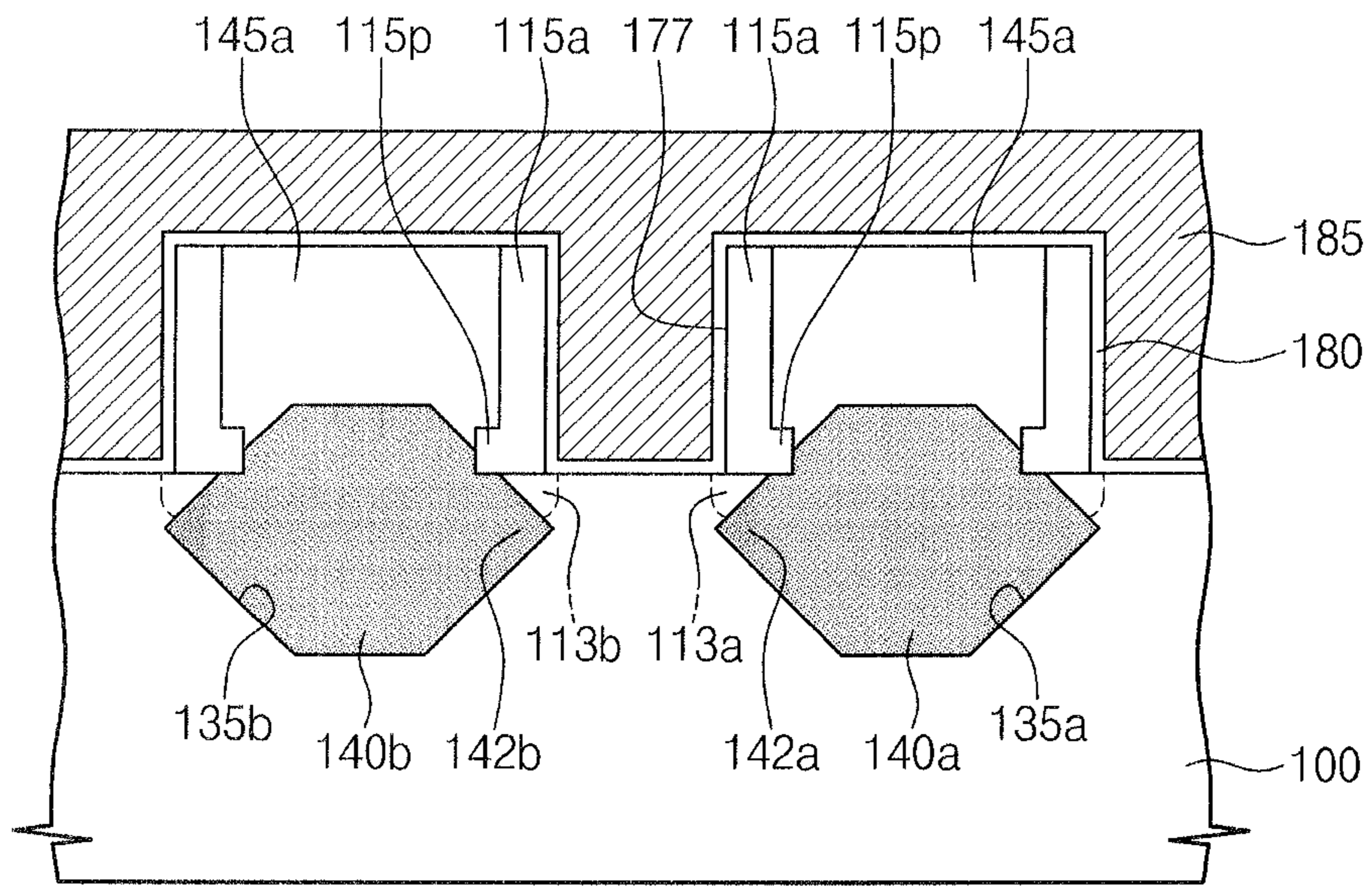


Fig. 4D

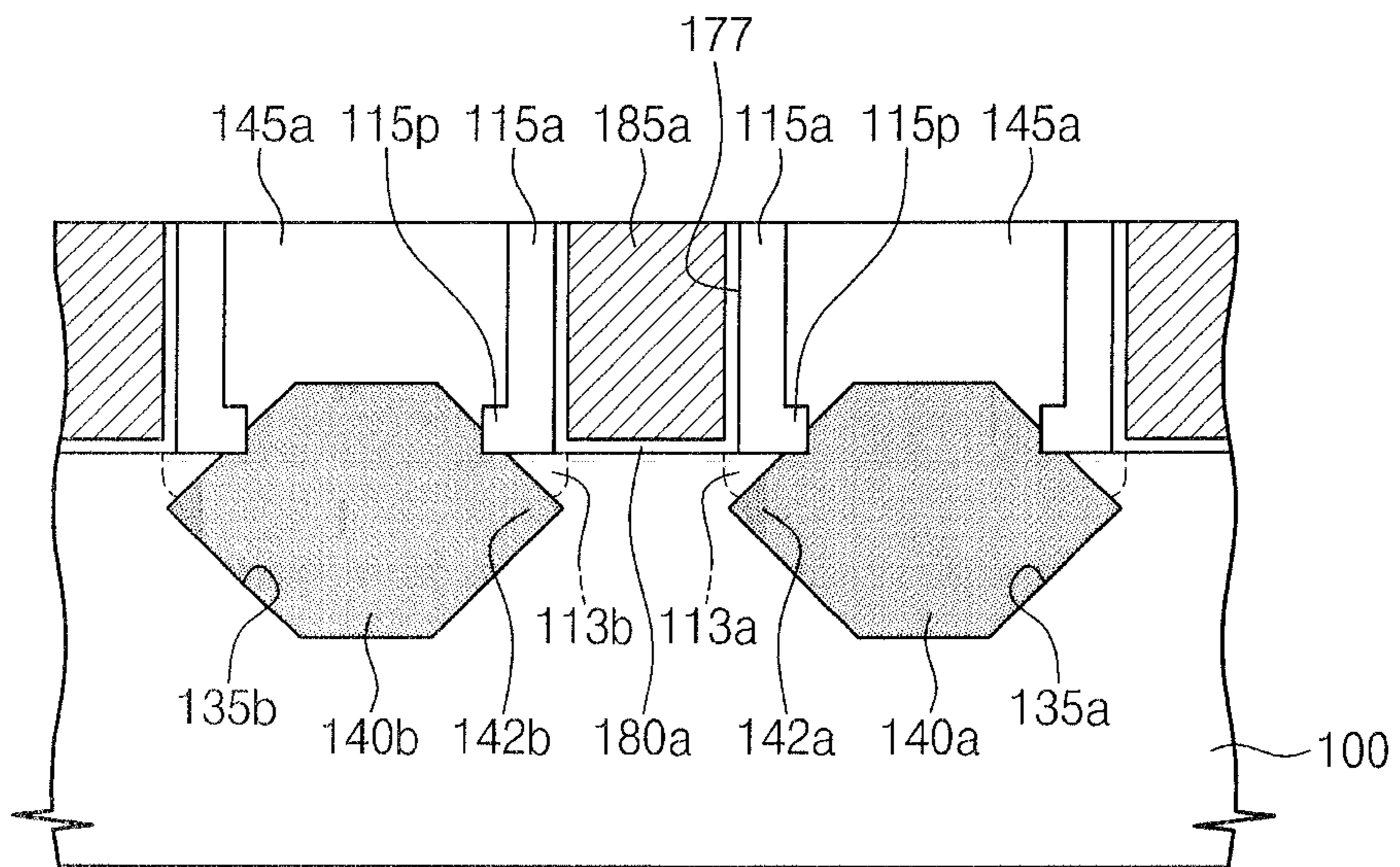


Fig. 5

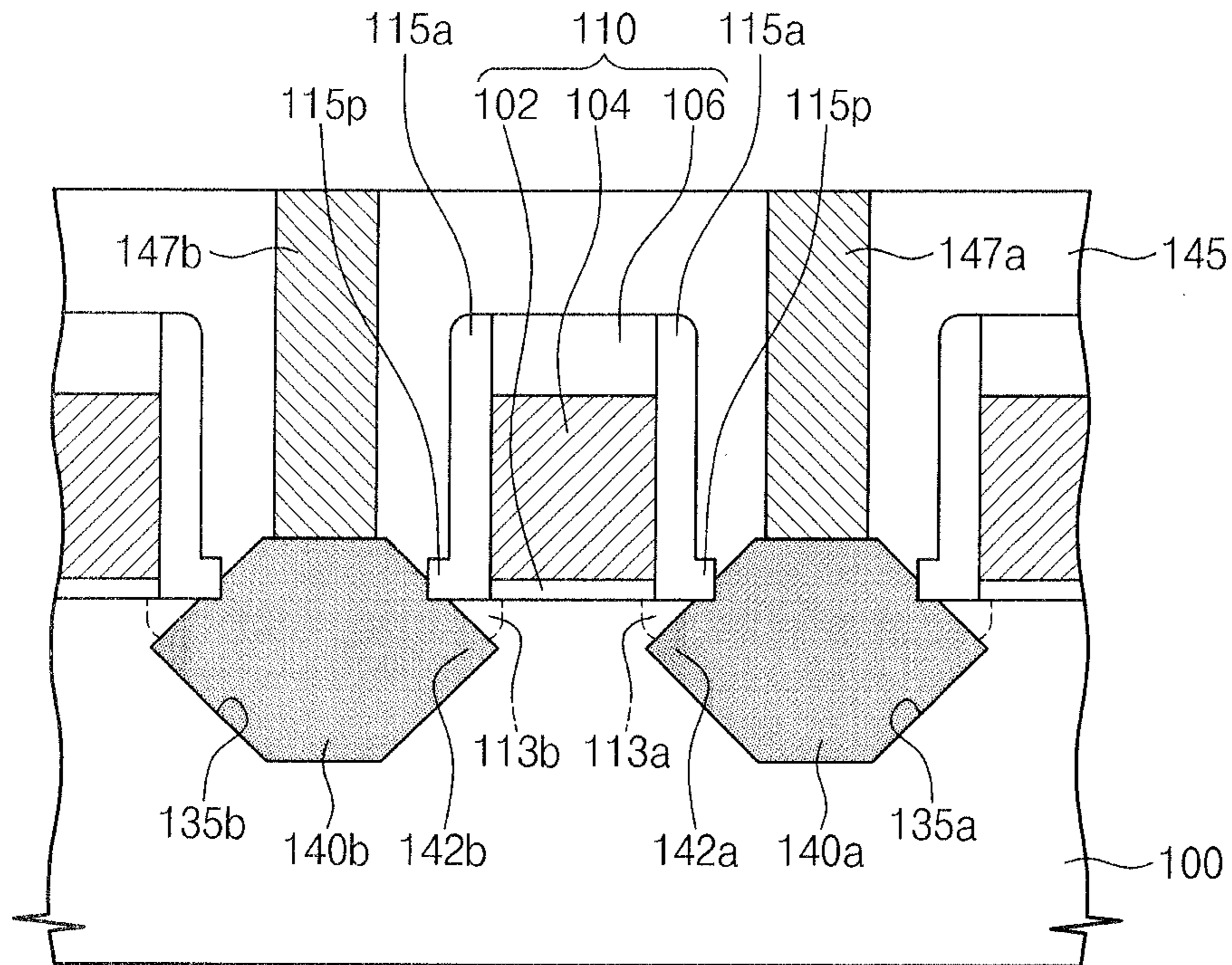


Fig. 6

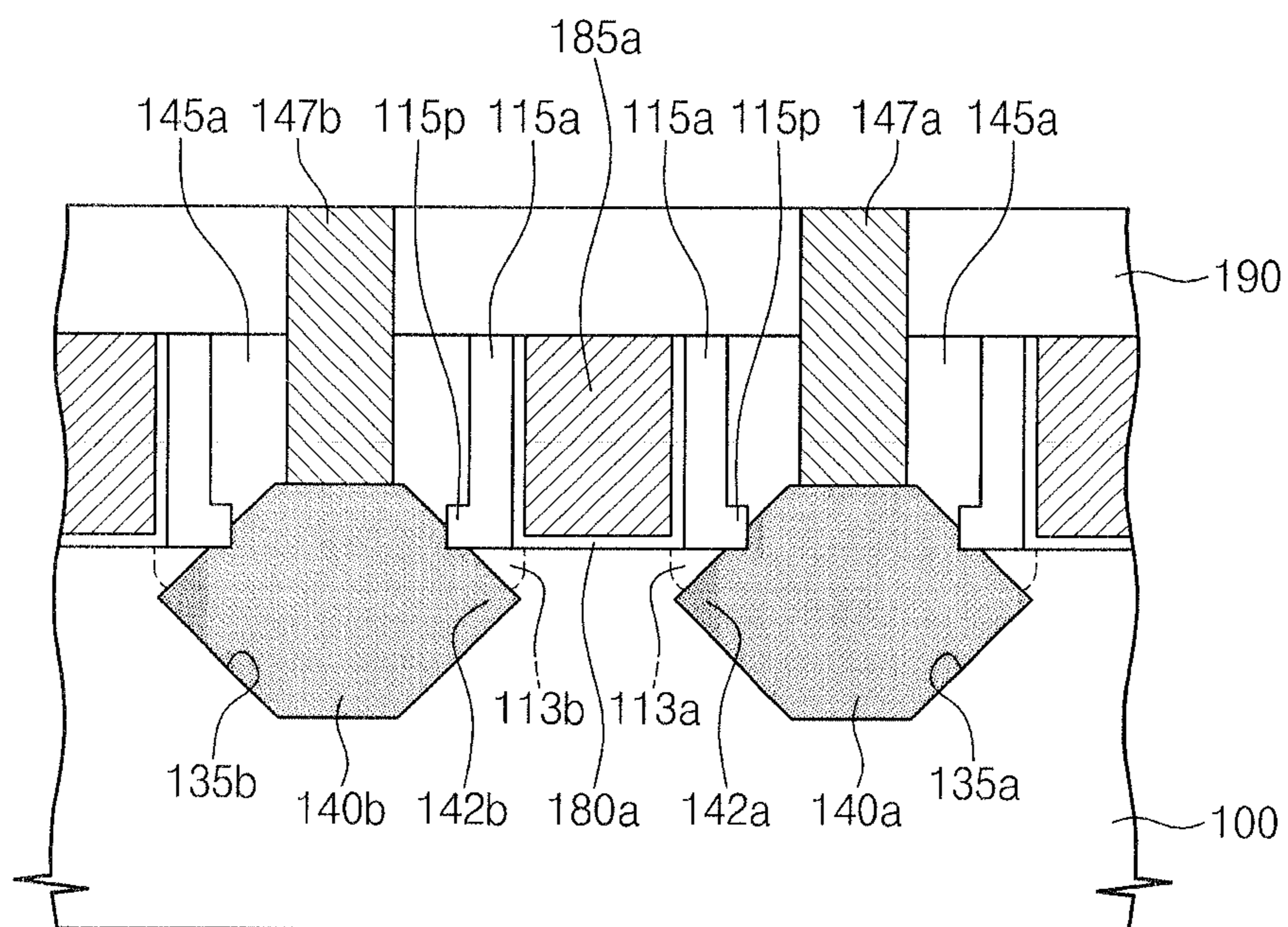


Fig. 7A

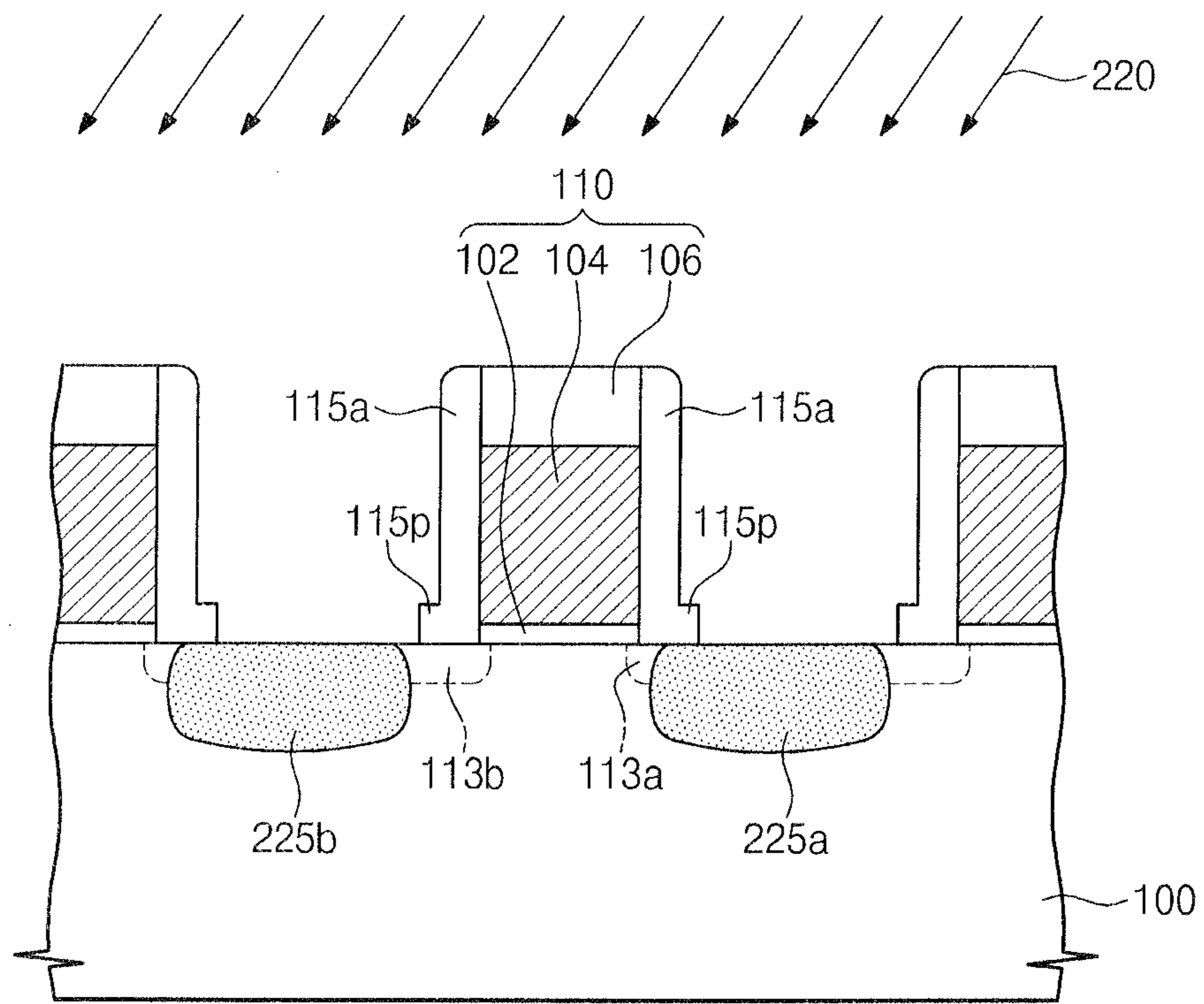


Fig. 7B

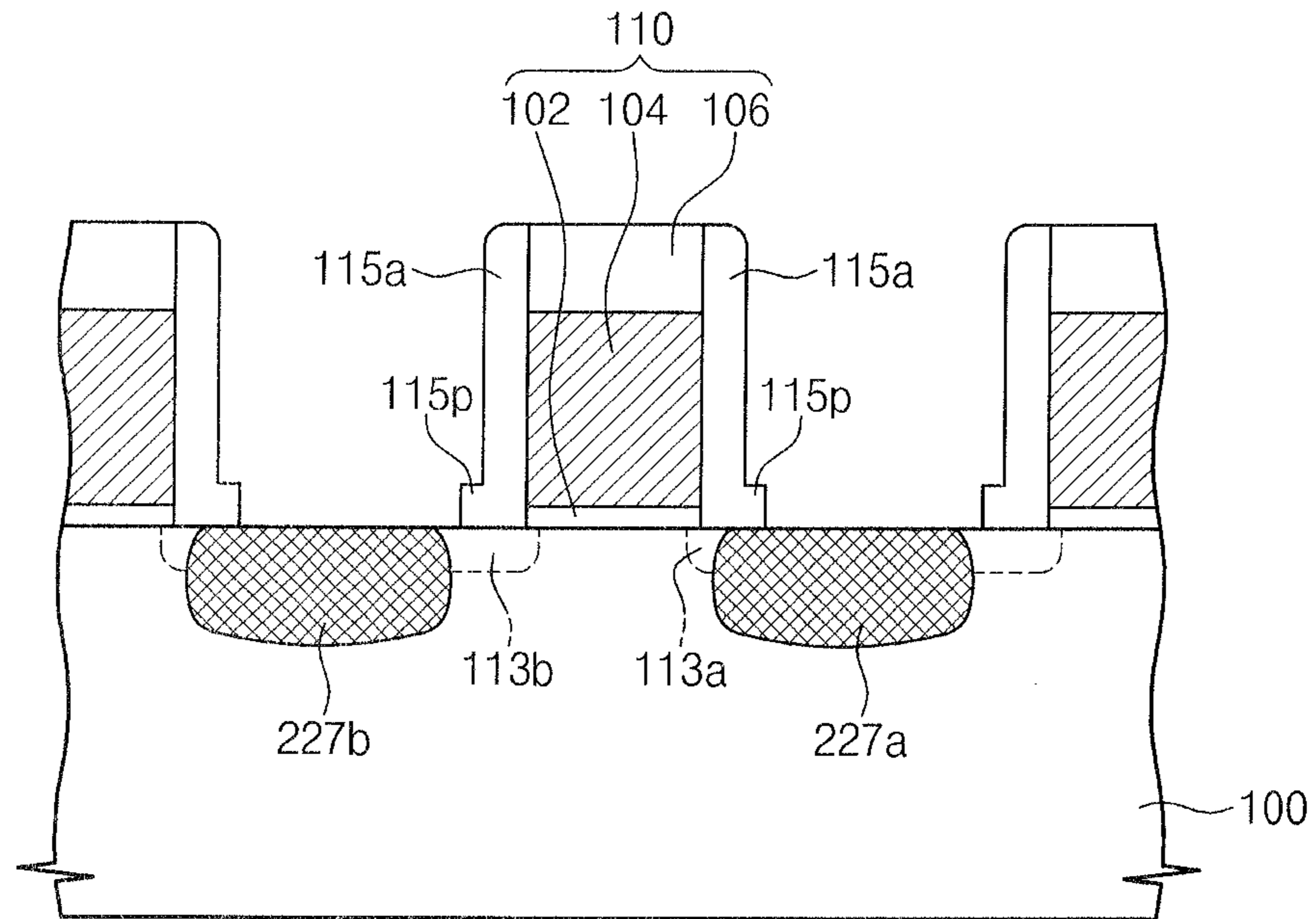


Fig. 7C

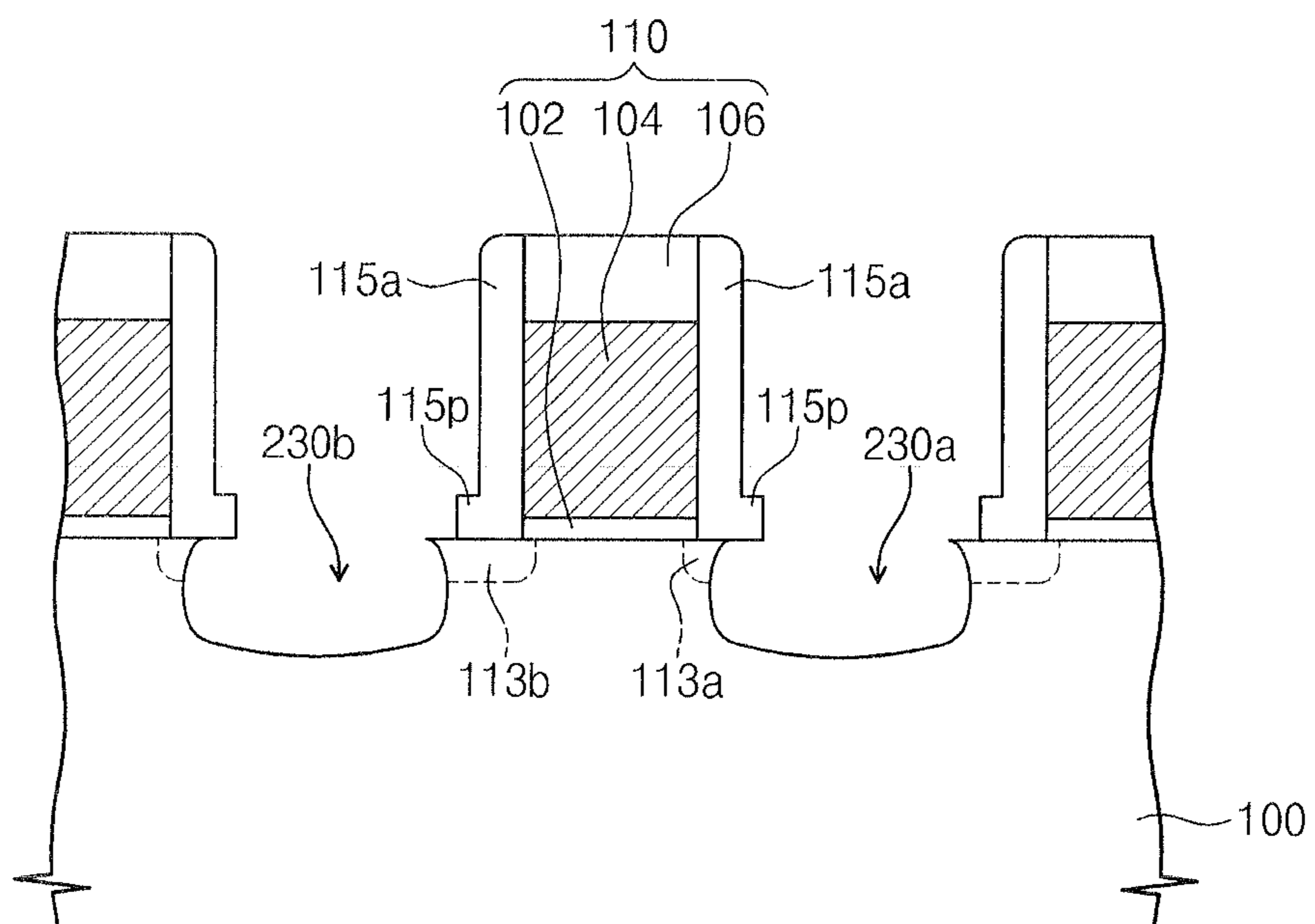


Fig. 7D

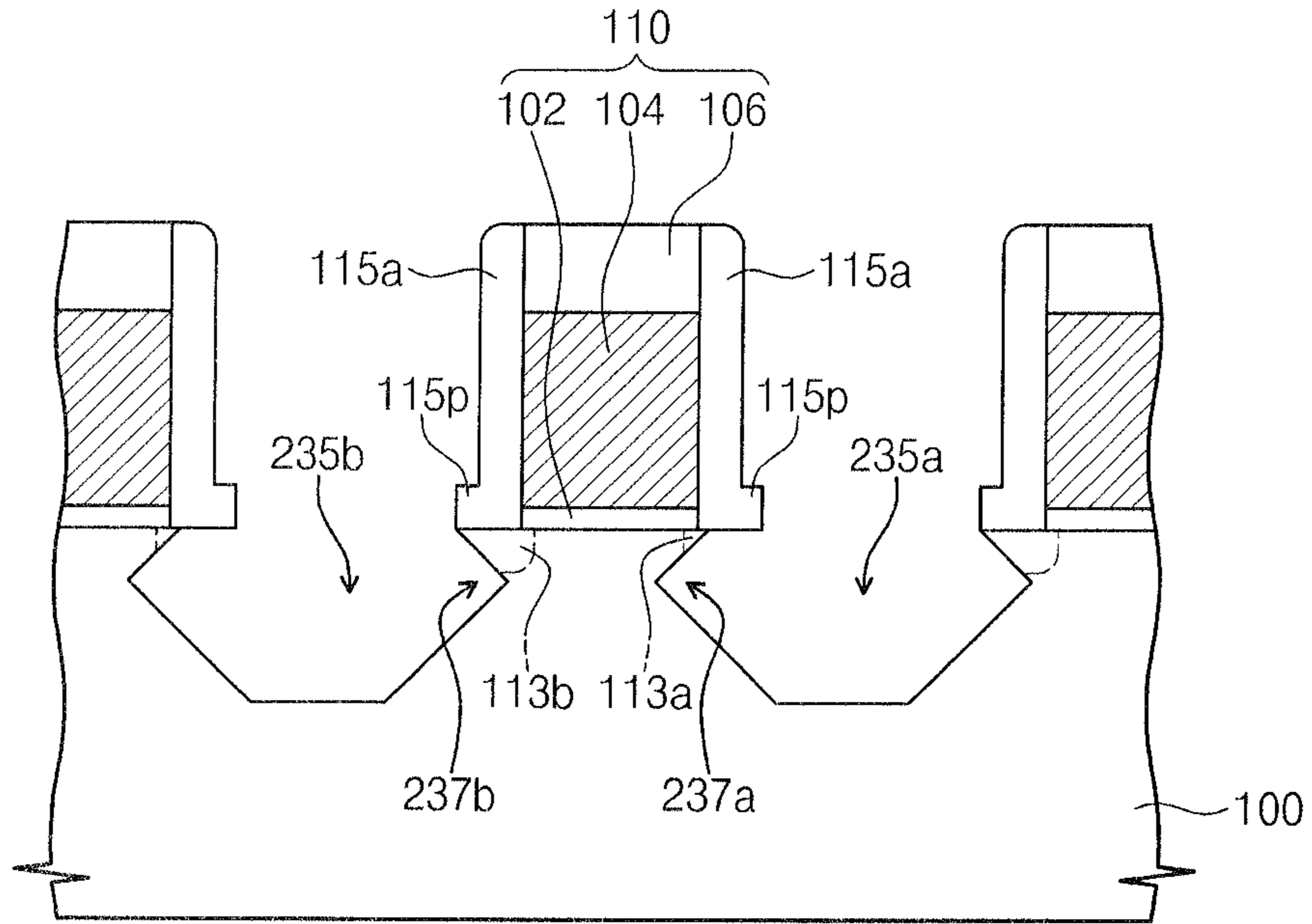


Fig. 7E

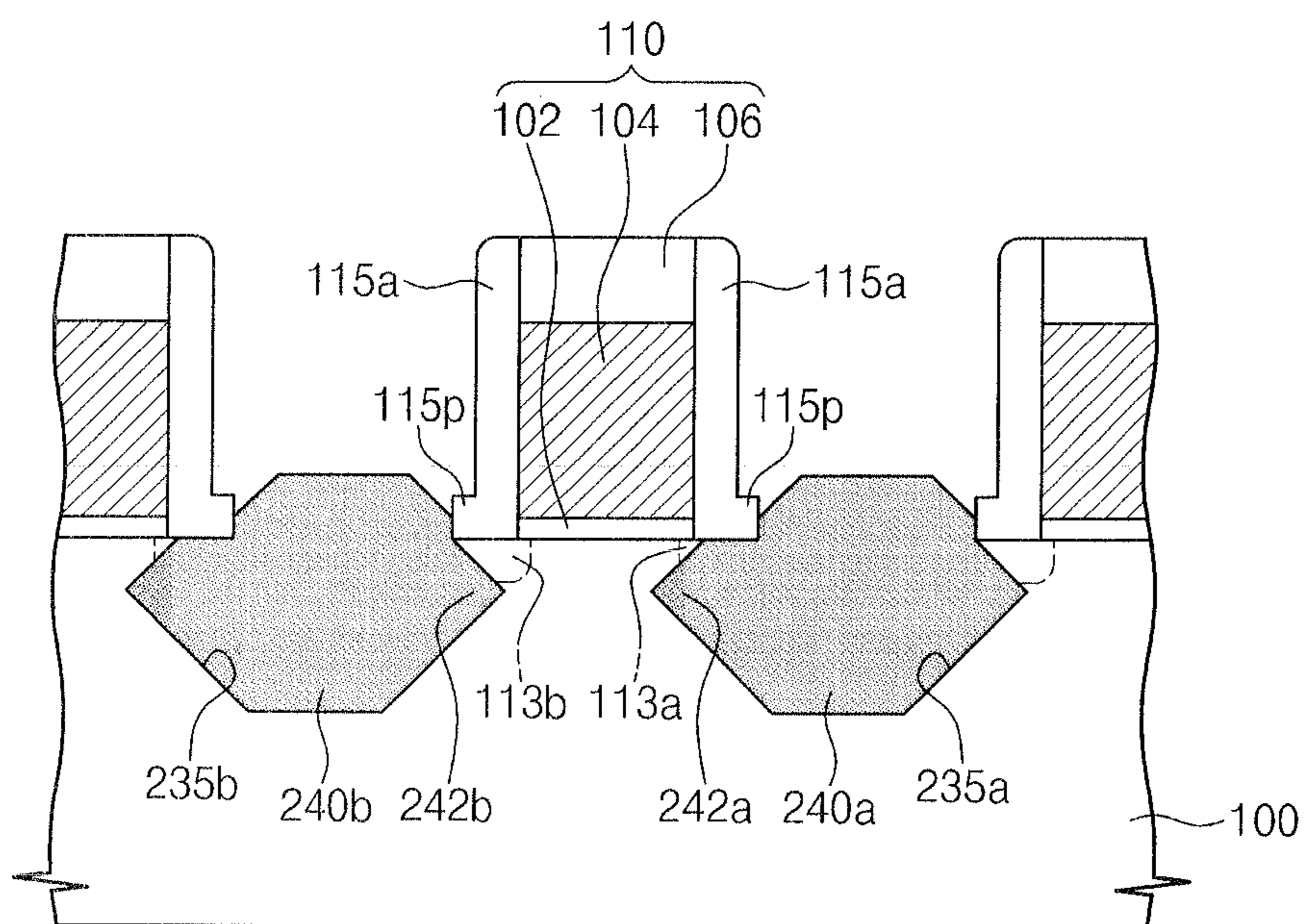


Fig. 8A

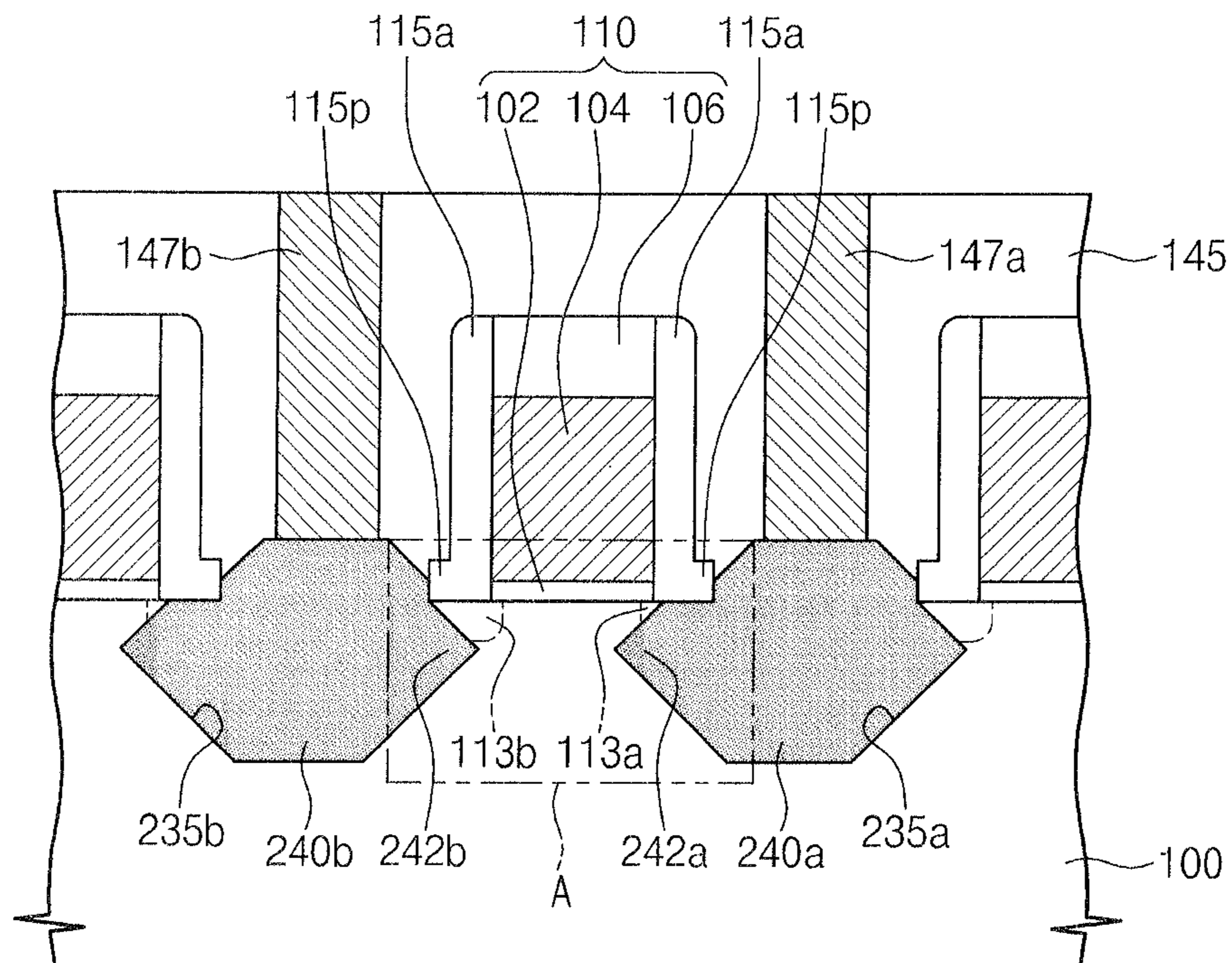


Fig. 8B

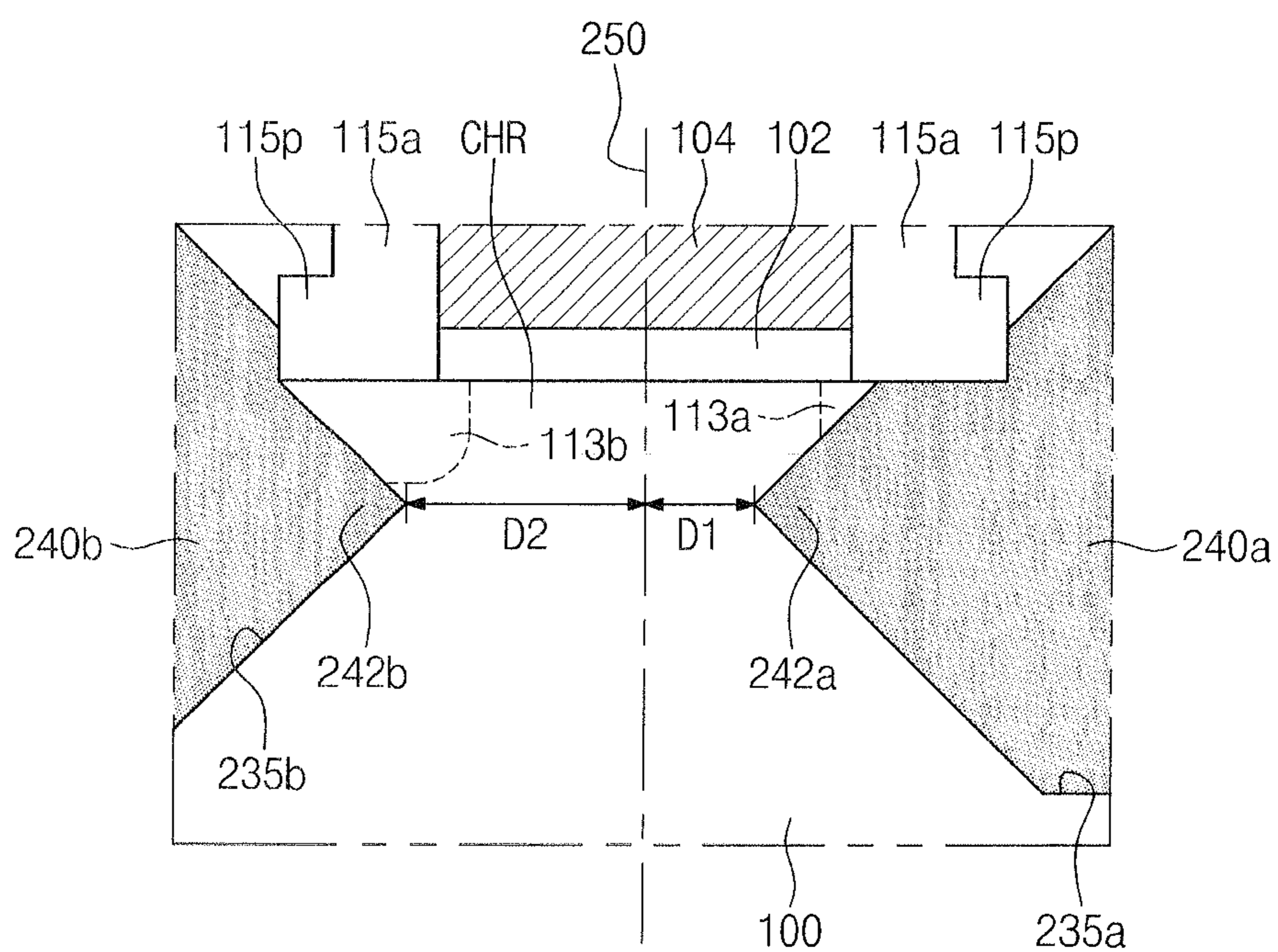


Fig. 9A

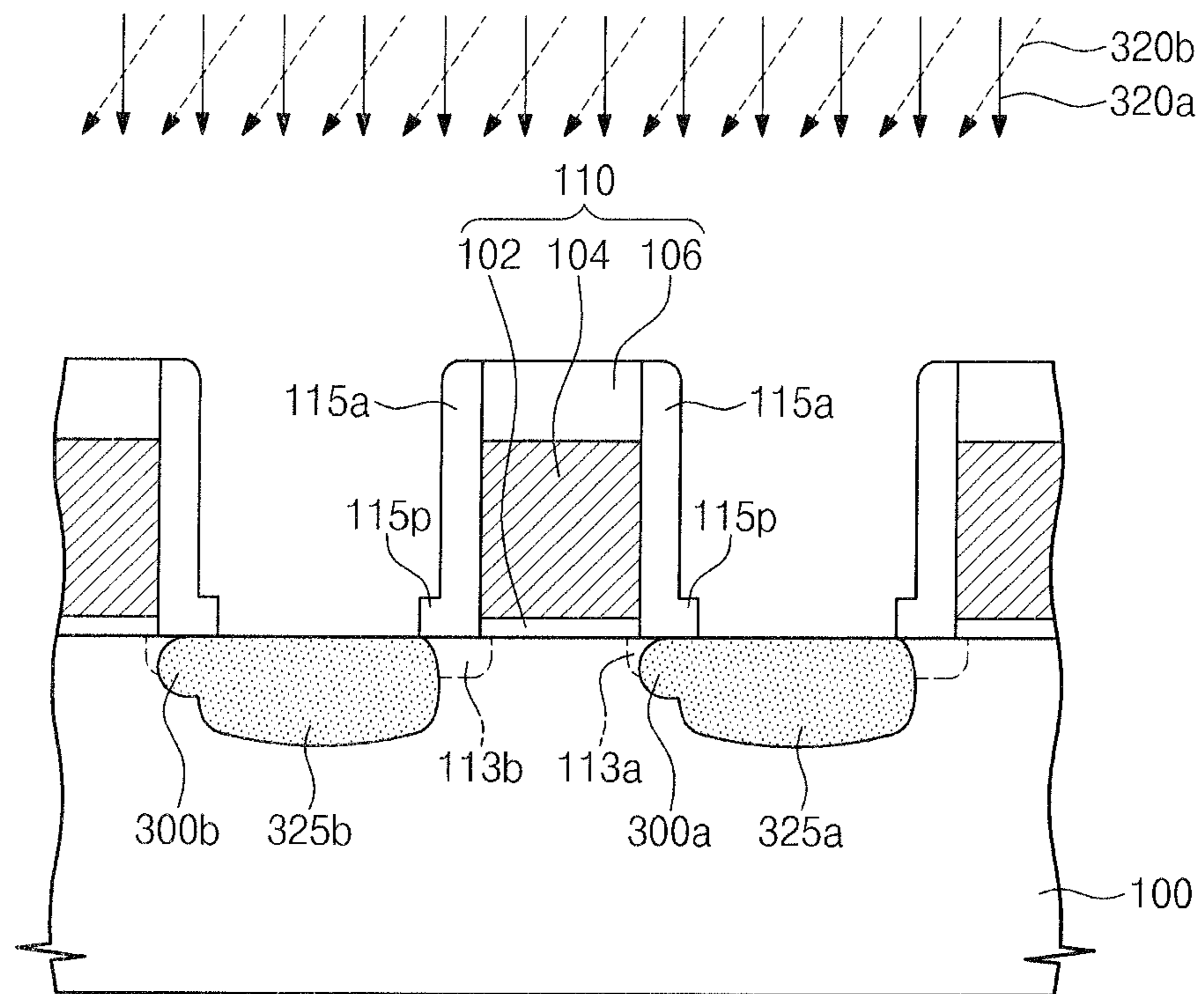


Fig. 9B

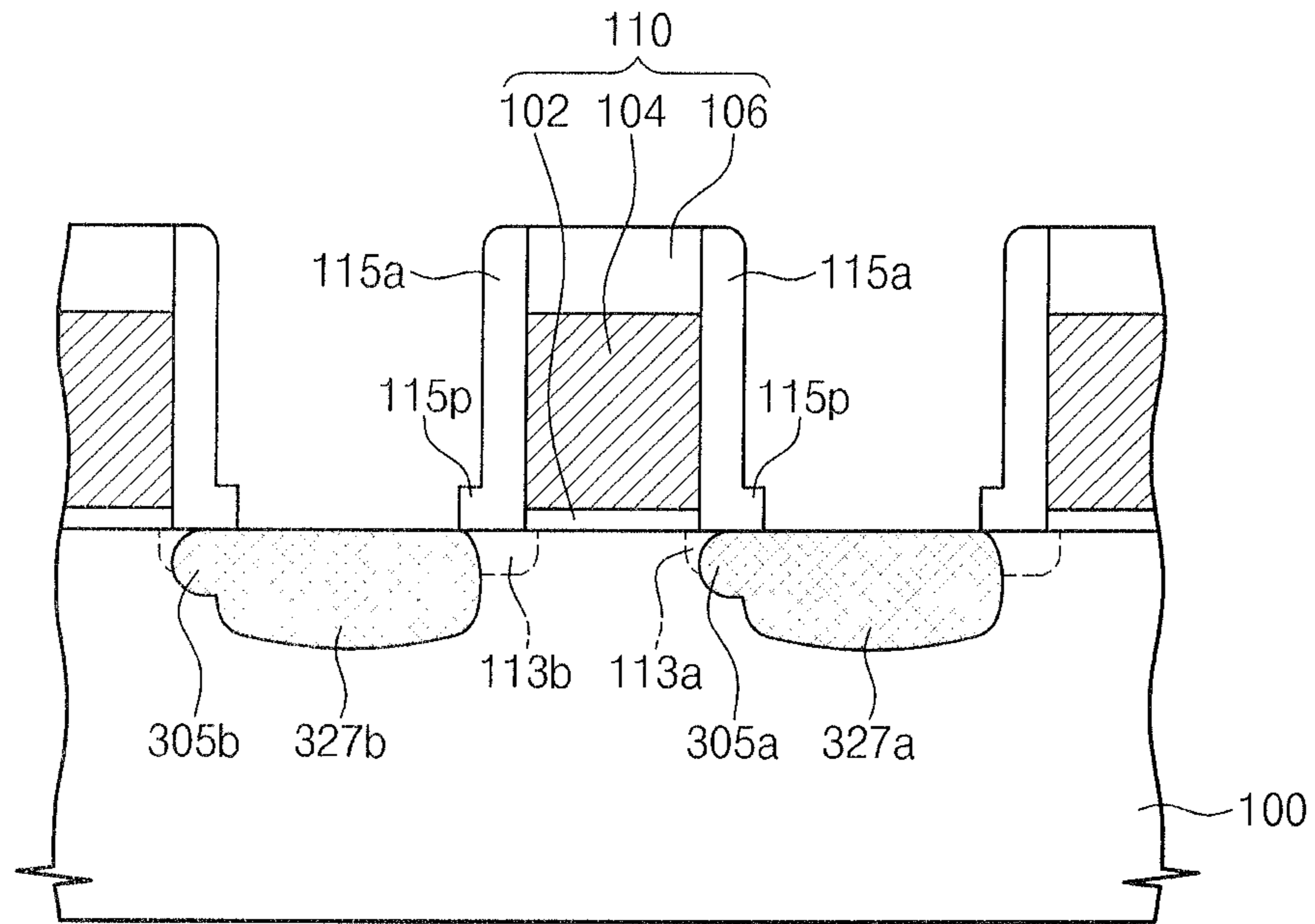


Fig. 9C

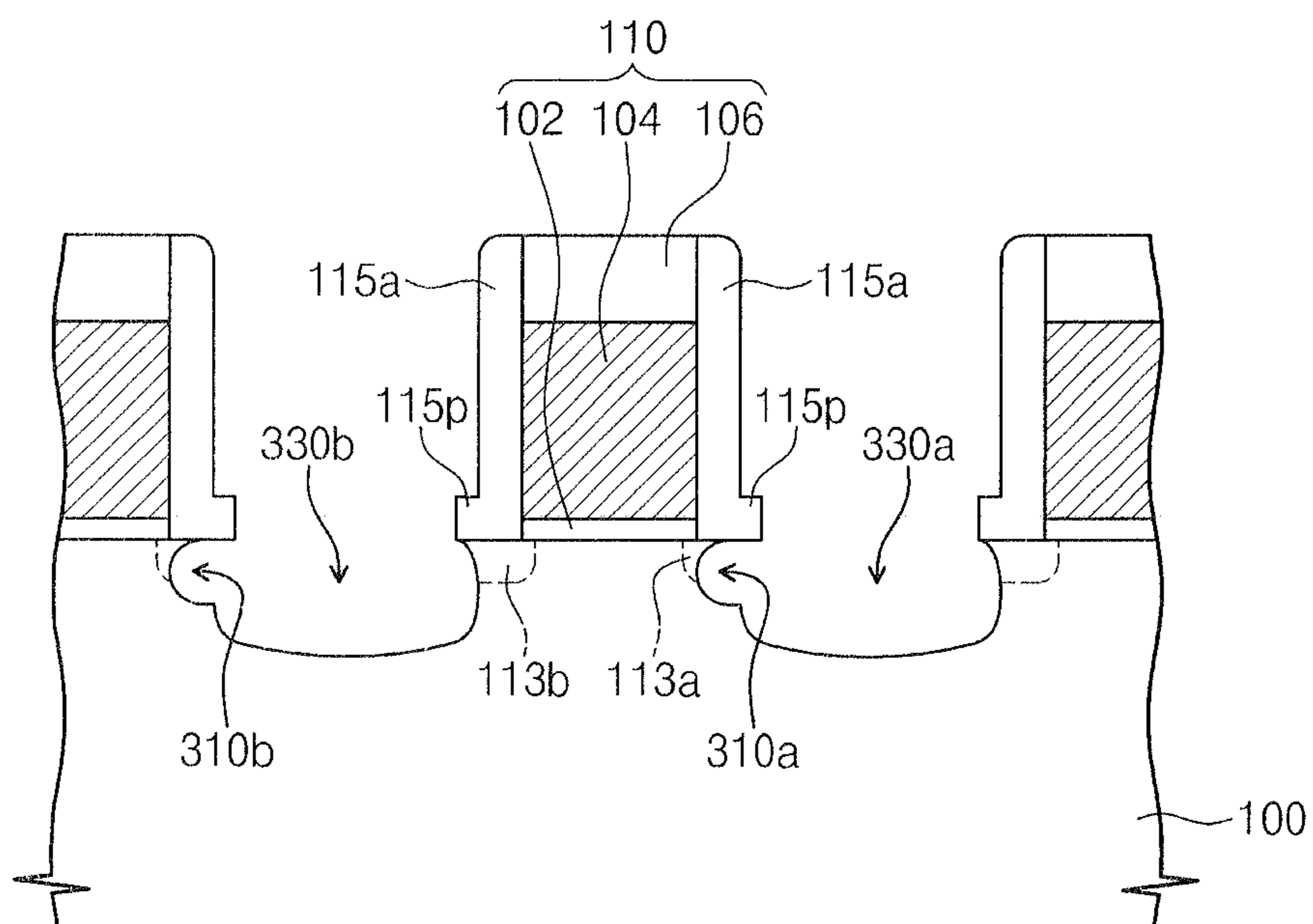


Fig. 9D

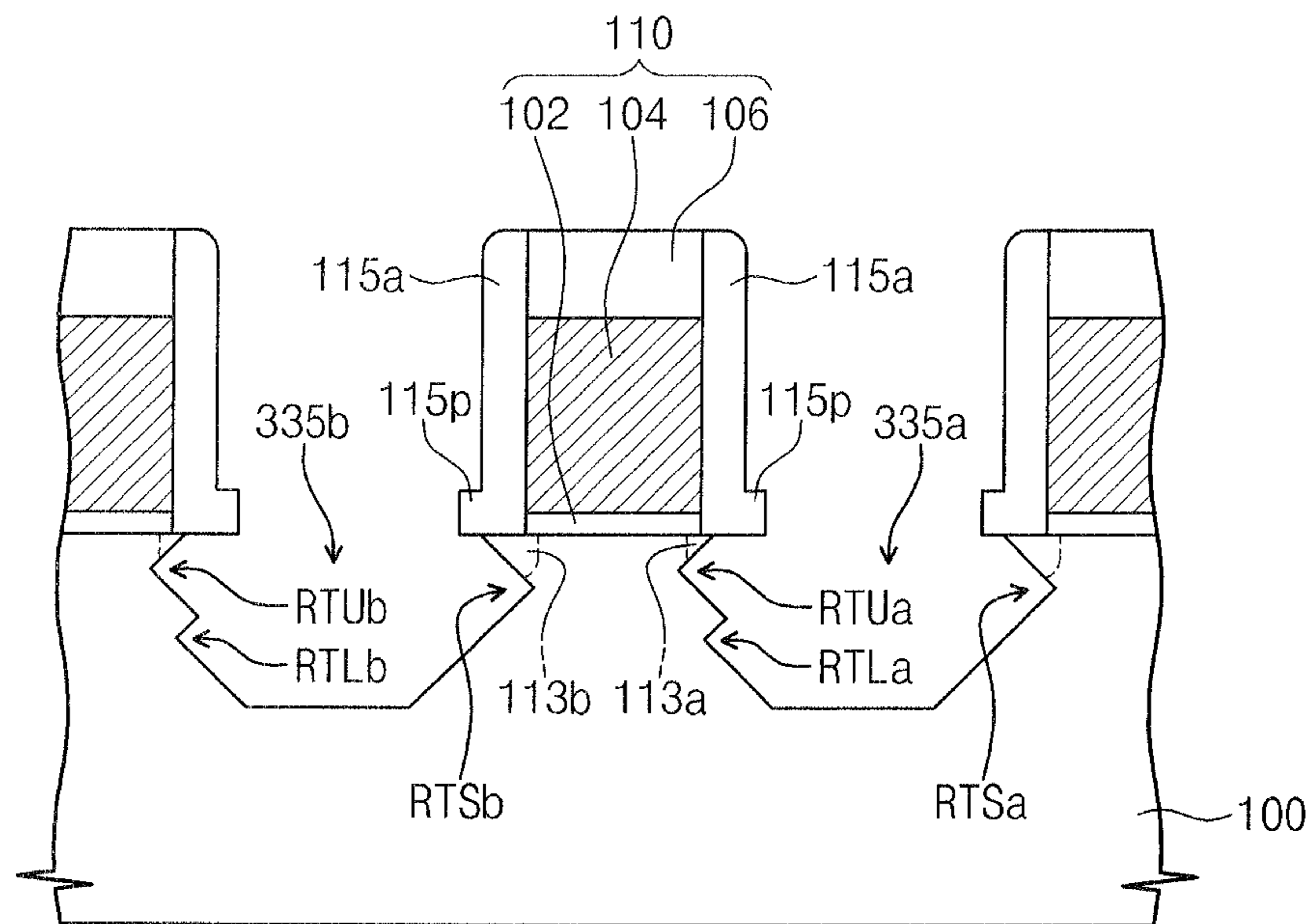


Fig. 9E

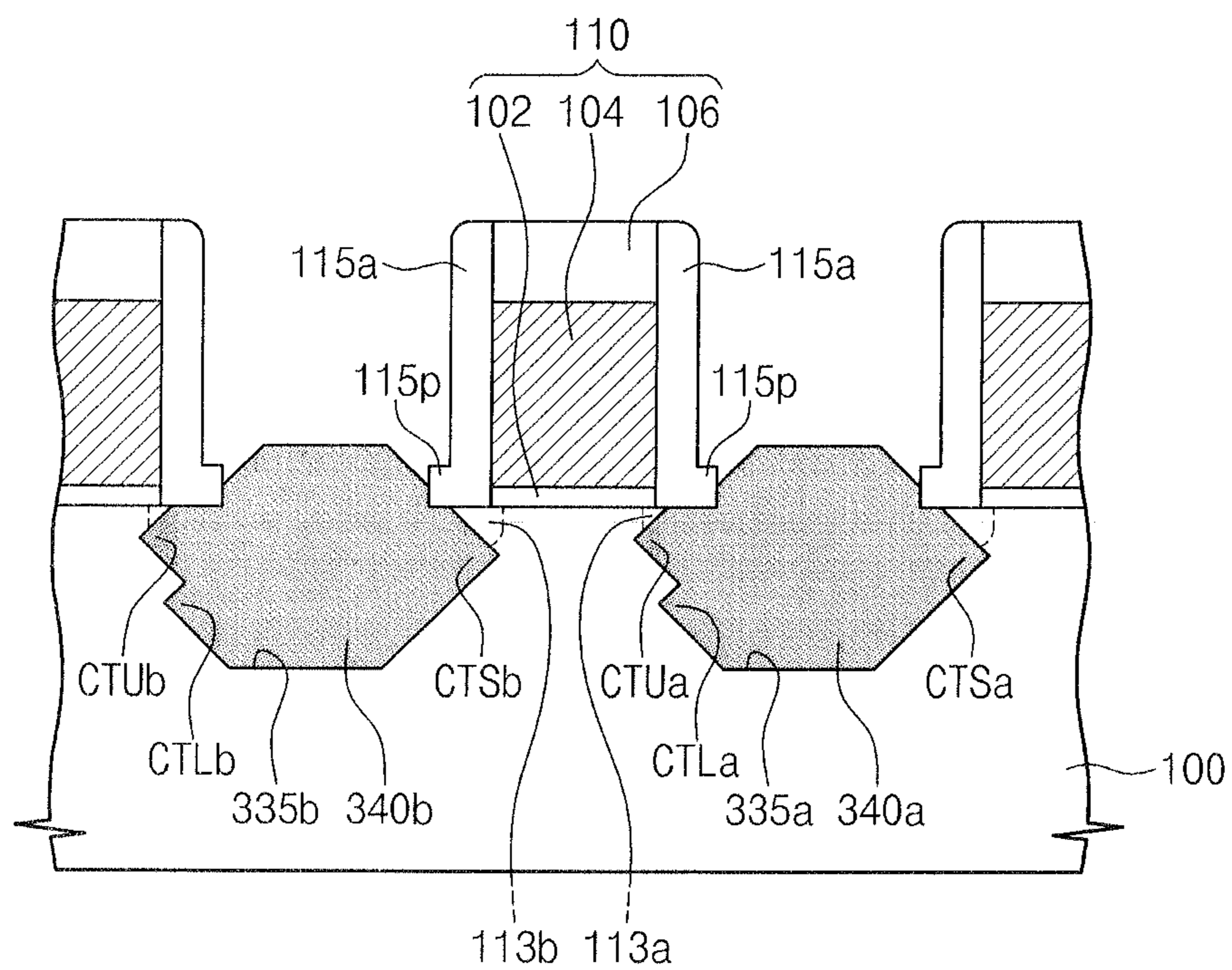


Fig. 10A

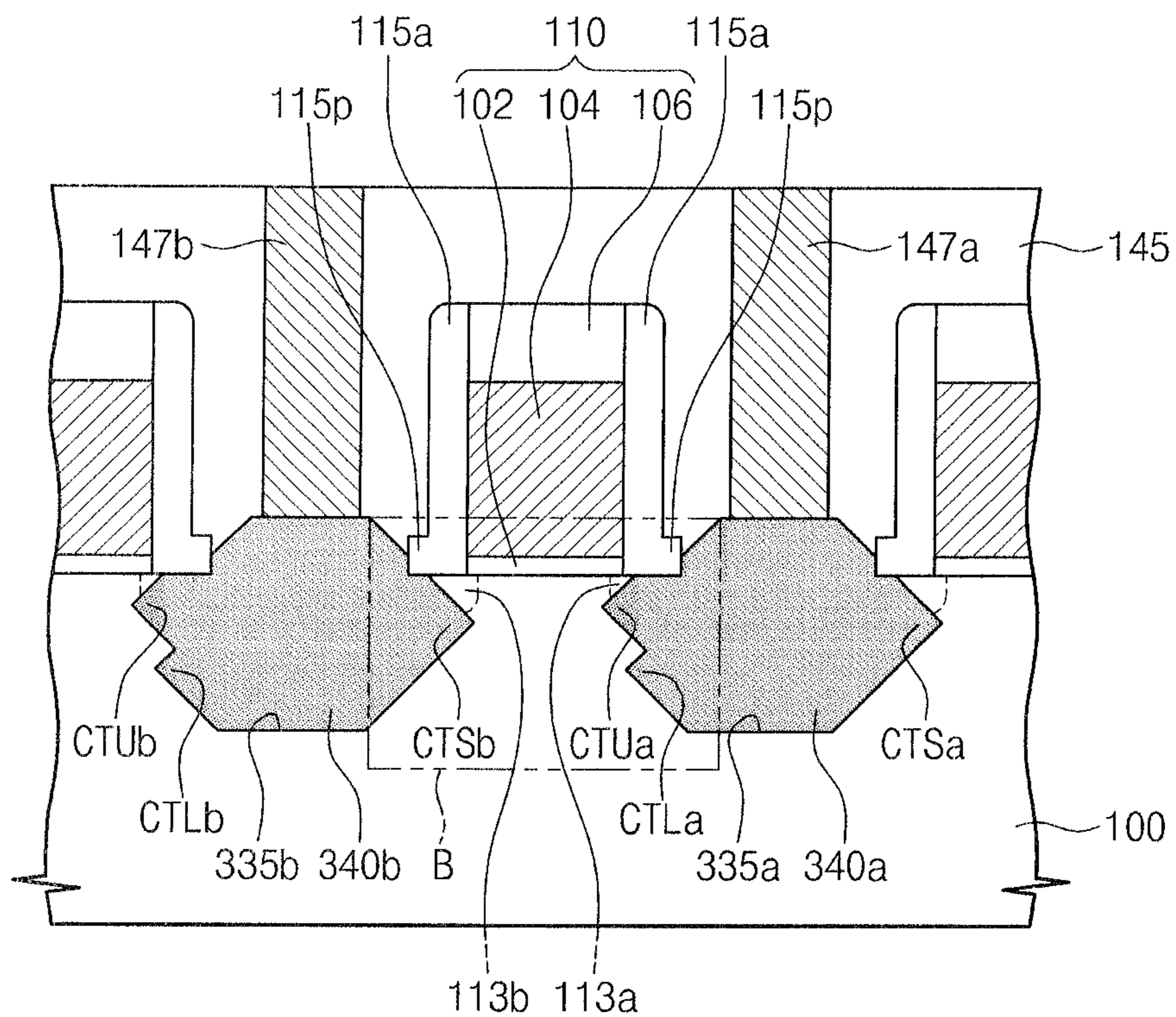


Fig. 10B

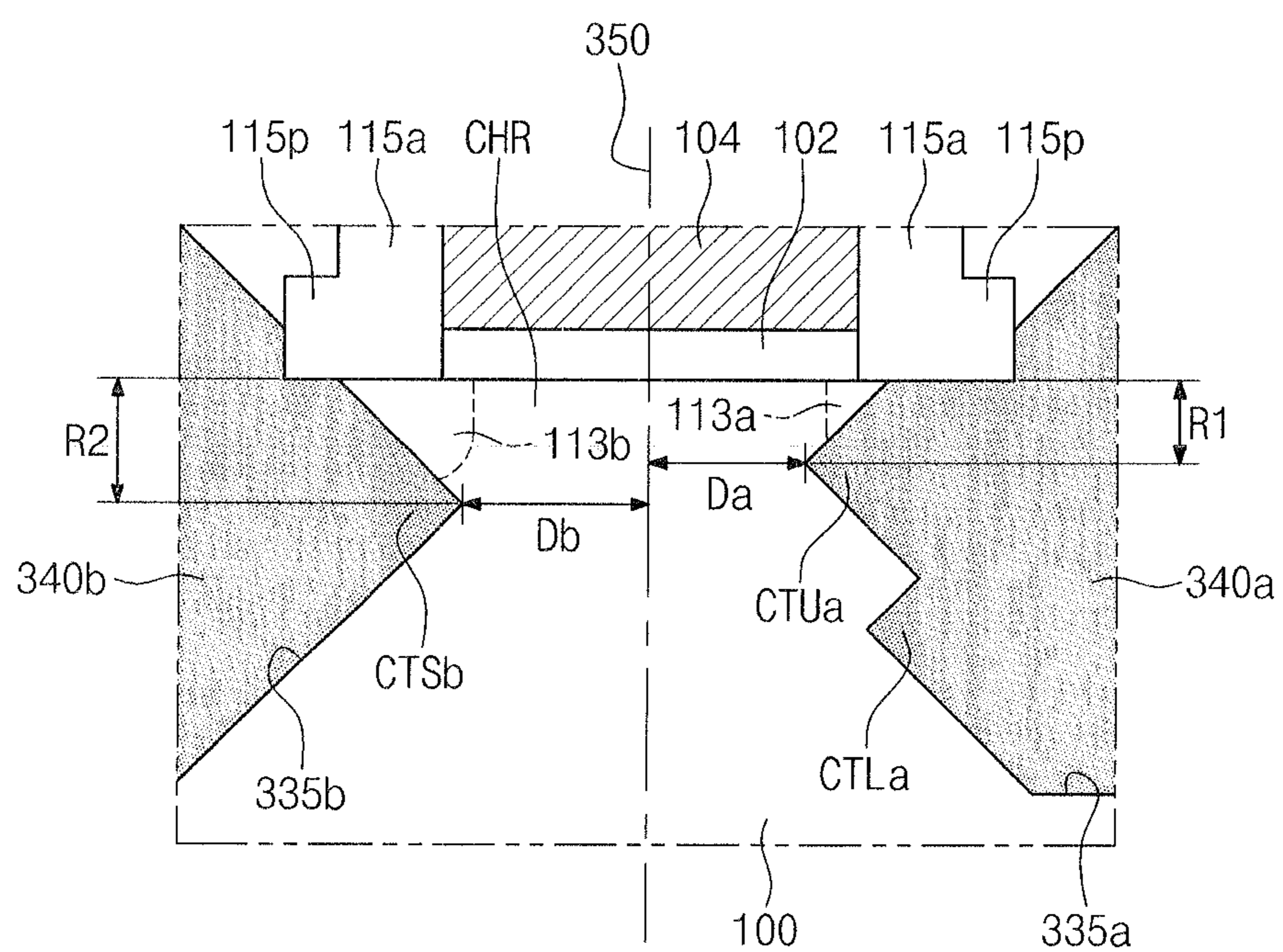


Fig. 11A

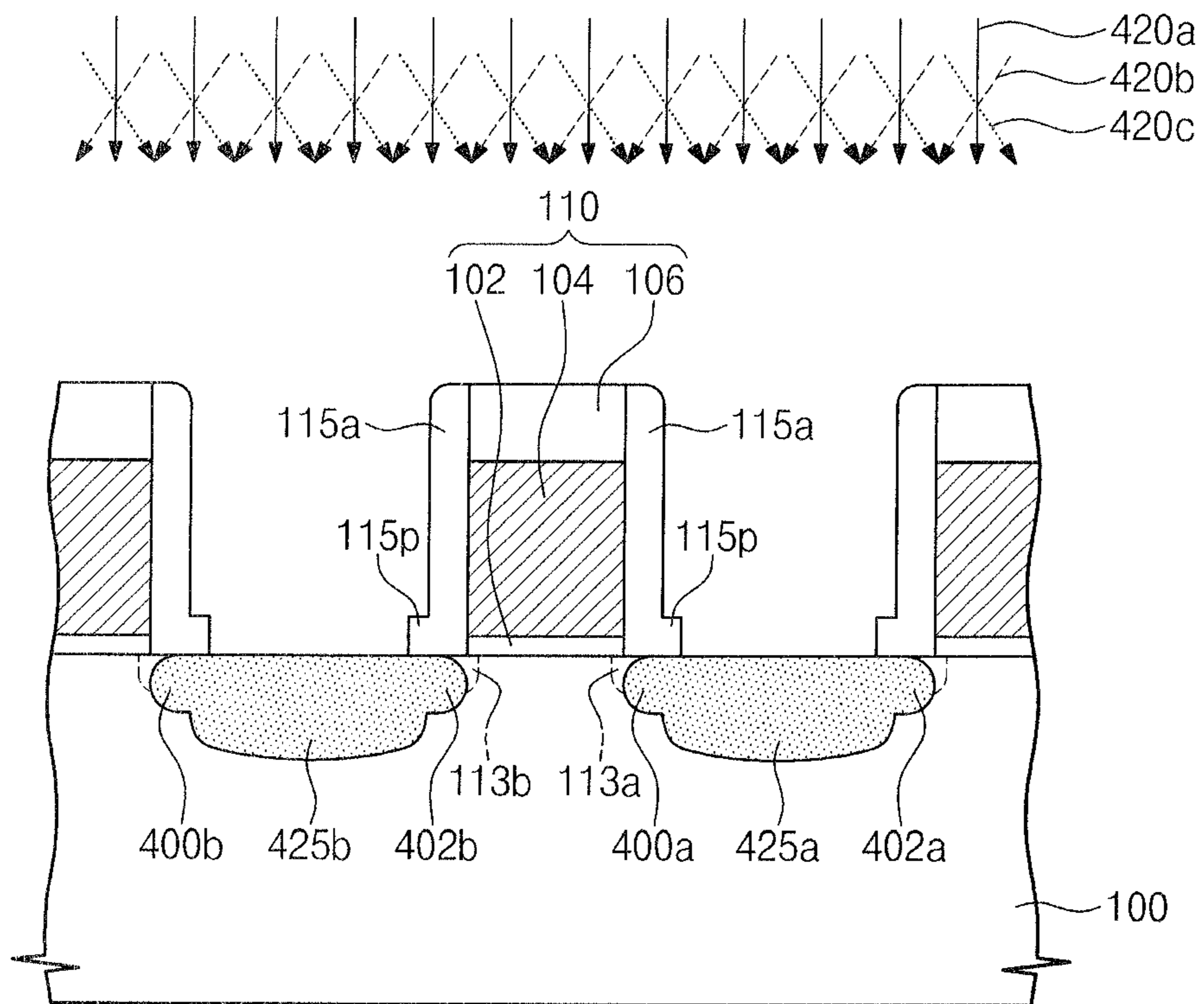


Fig. 11B

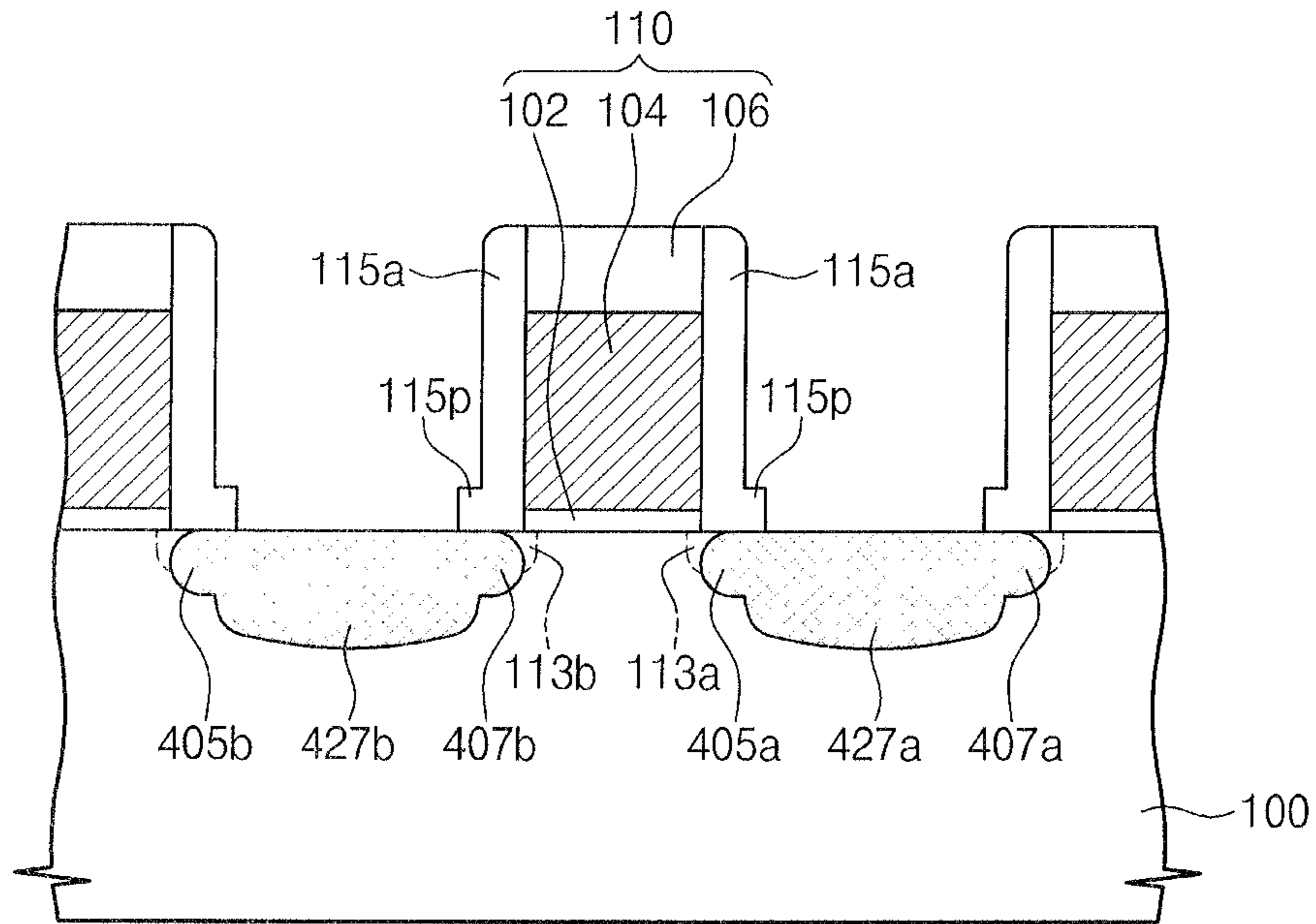


Fig. 11C

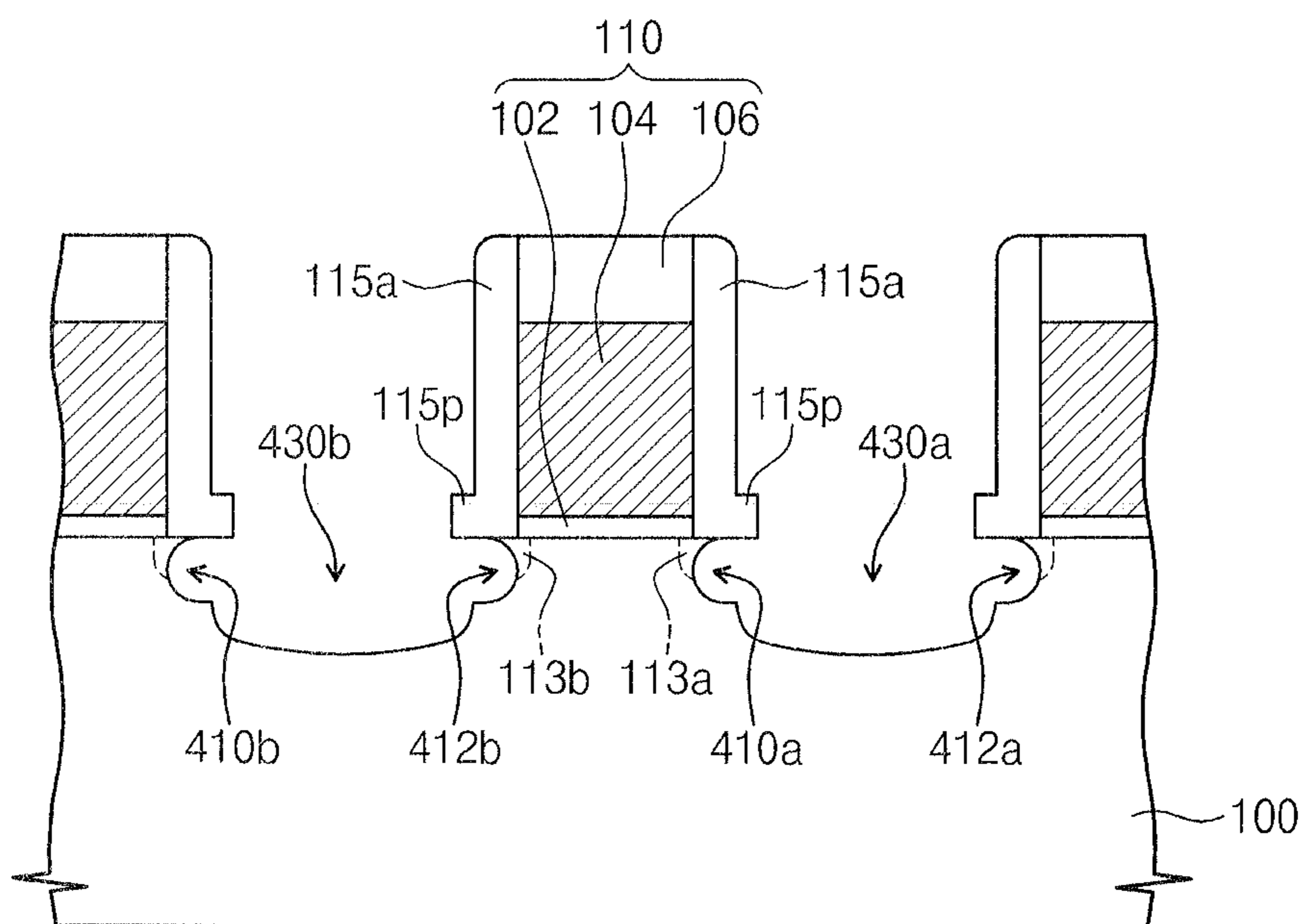


Fig. 11D

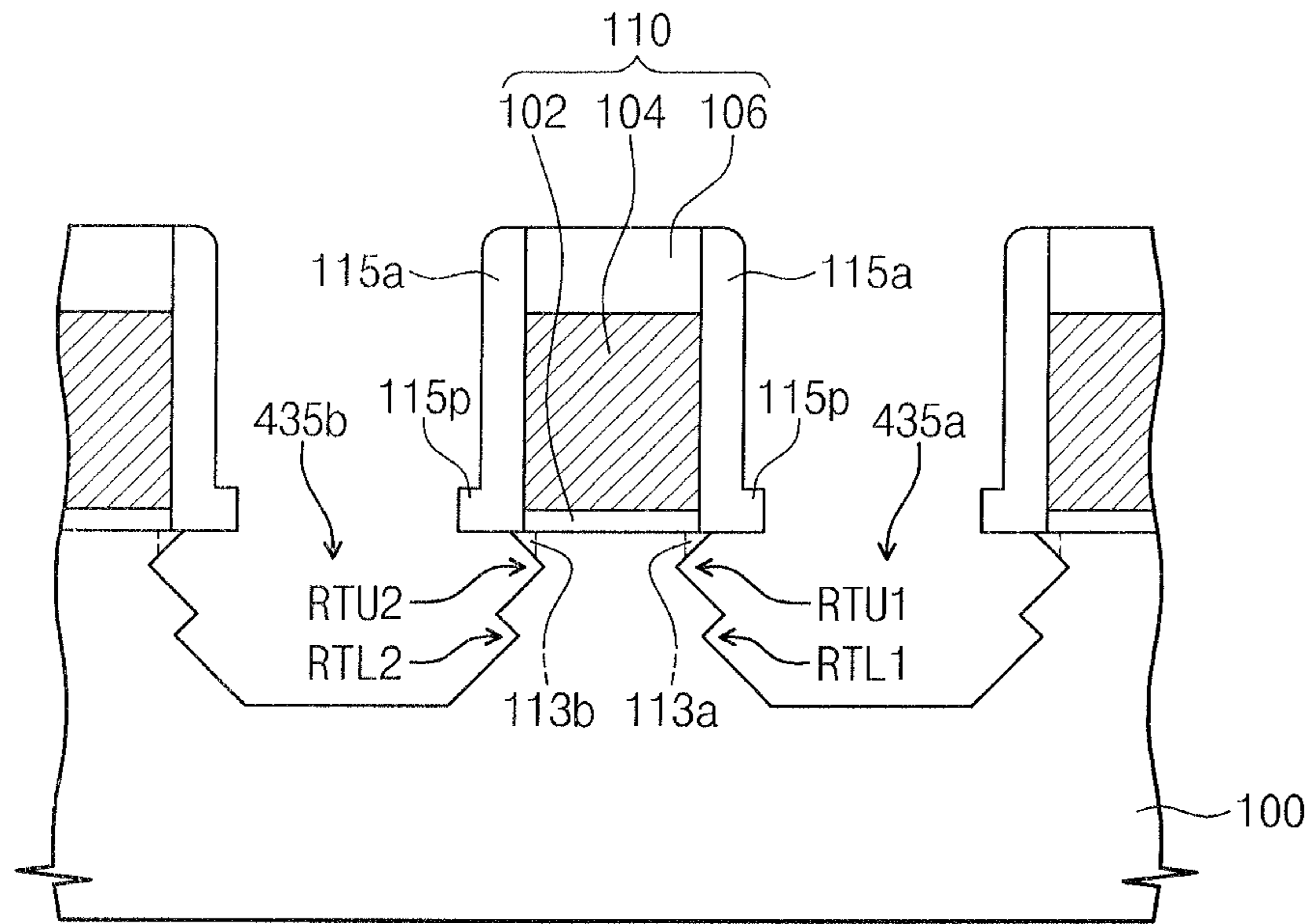


Fig. 11E

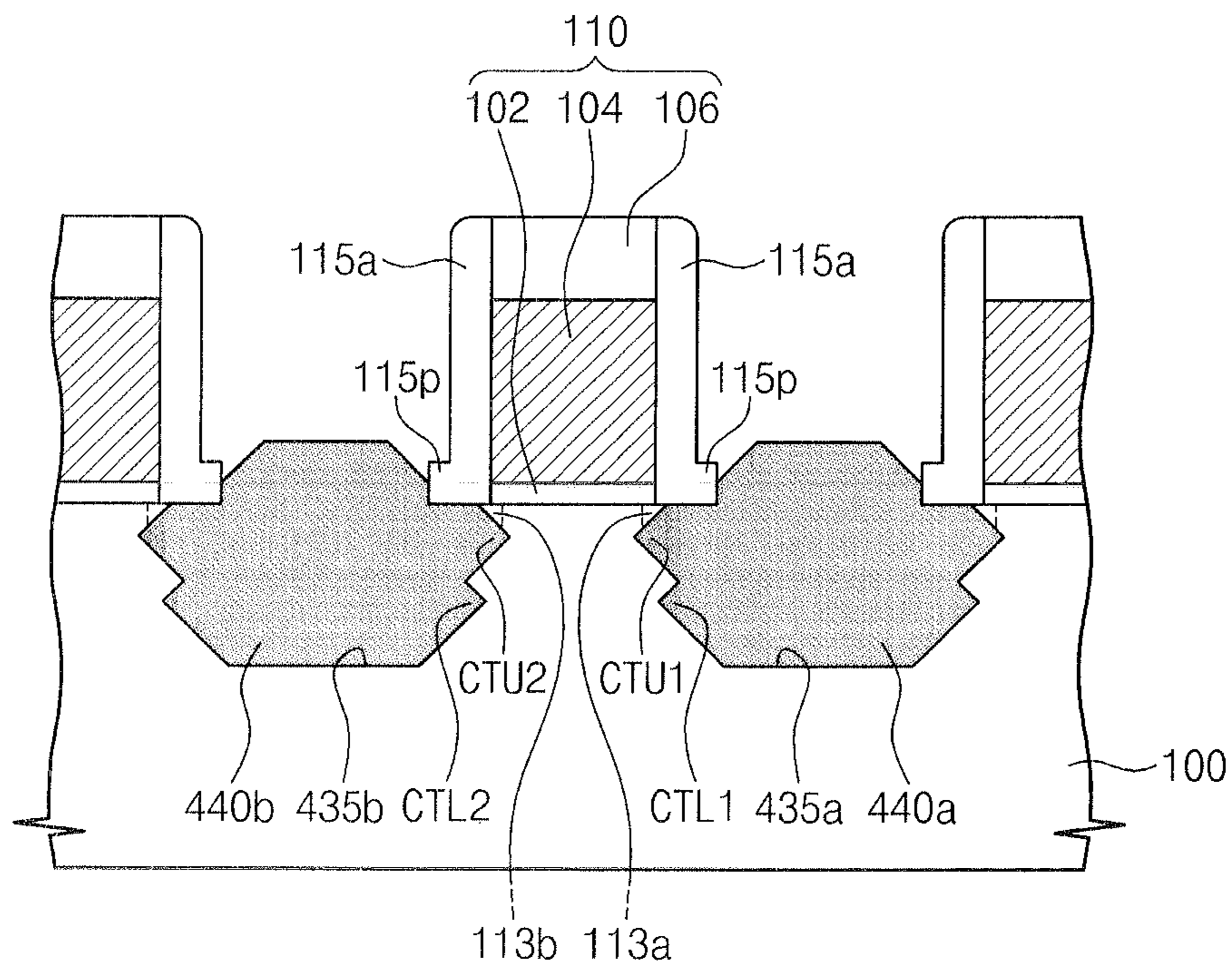


Fig. 12A

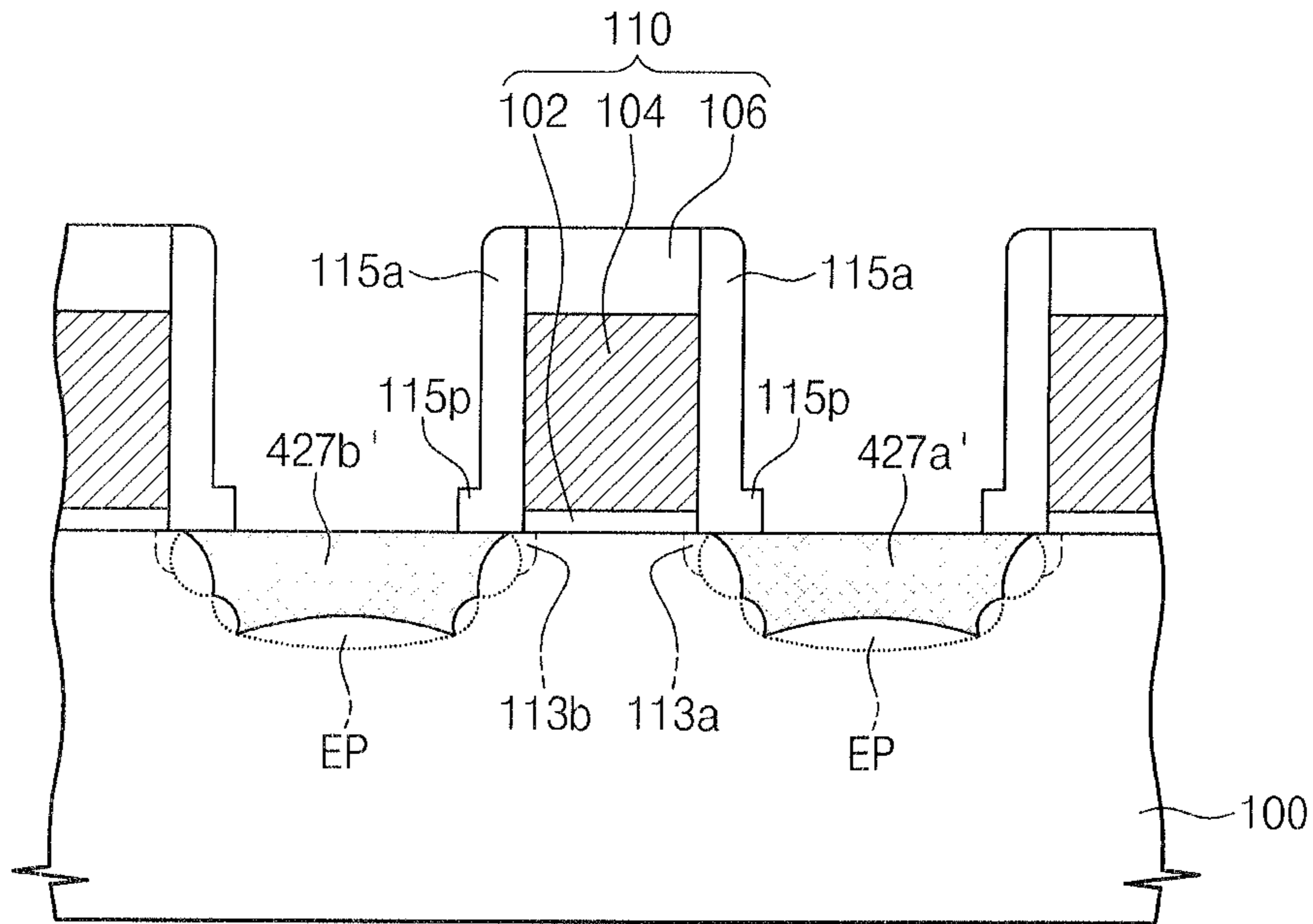


Fig. 12B

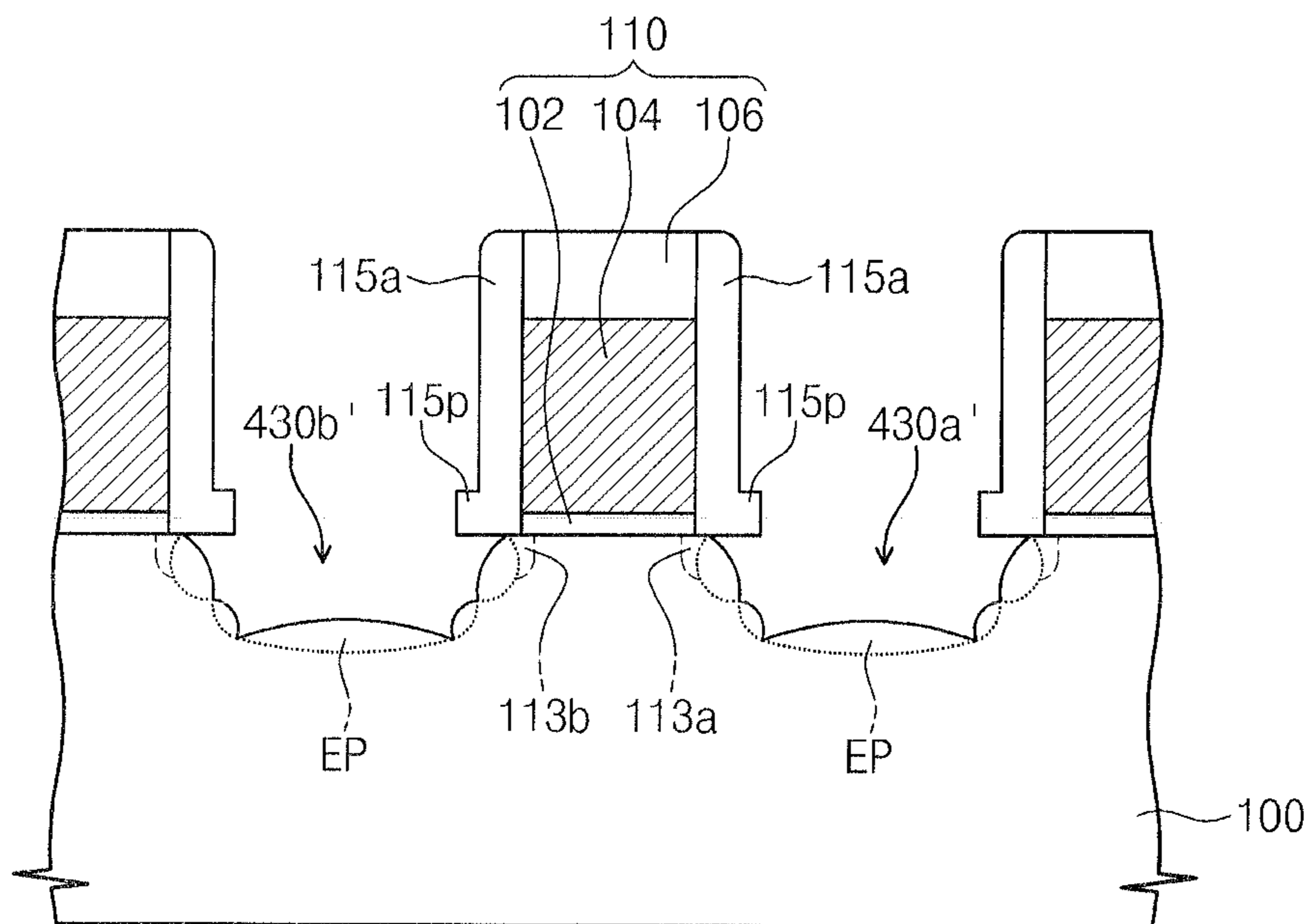


Fig. 13

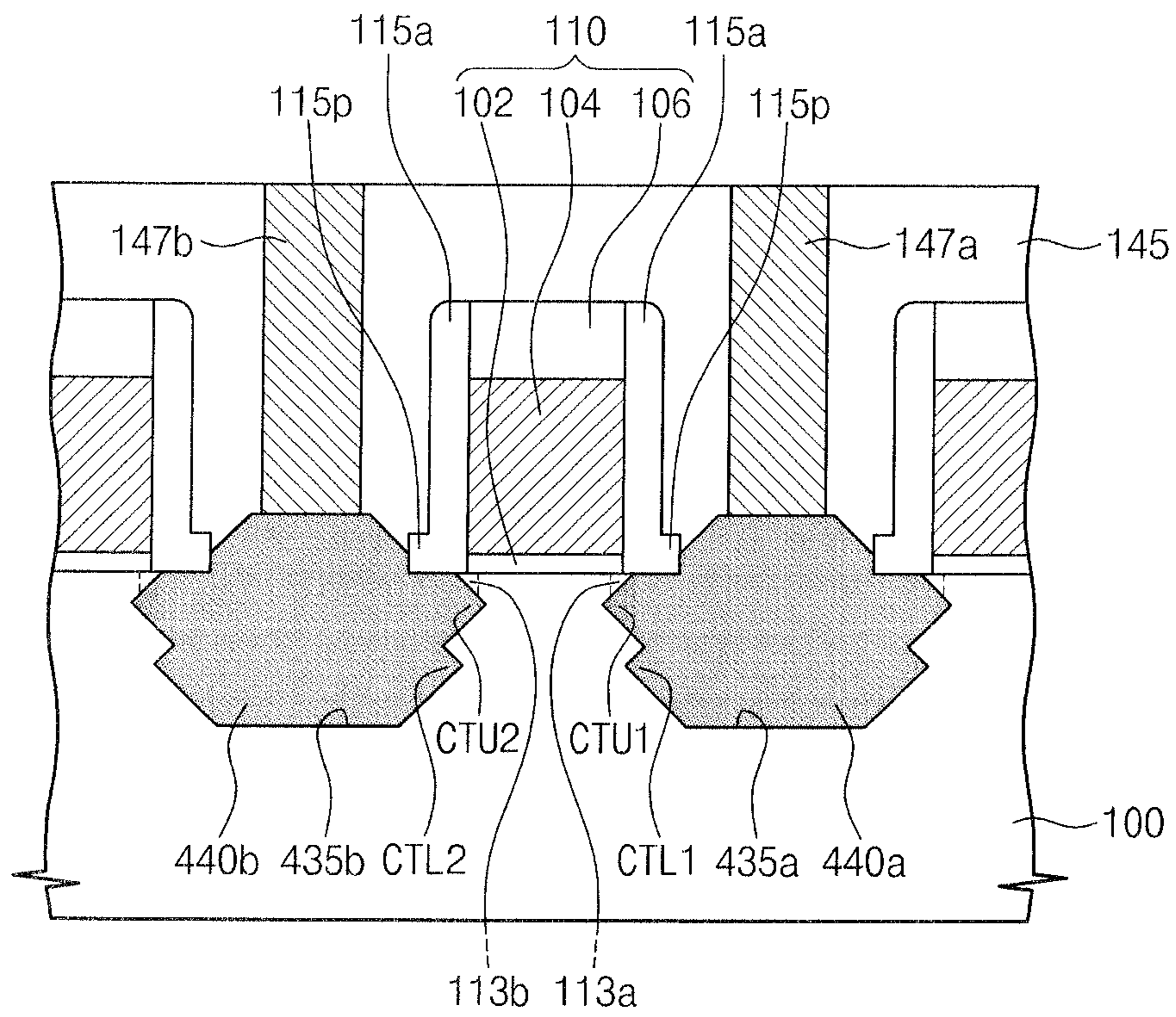


Fig. 14A

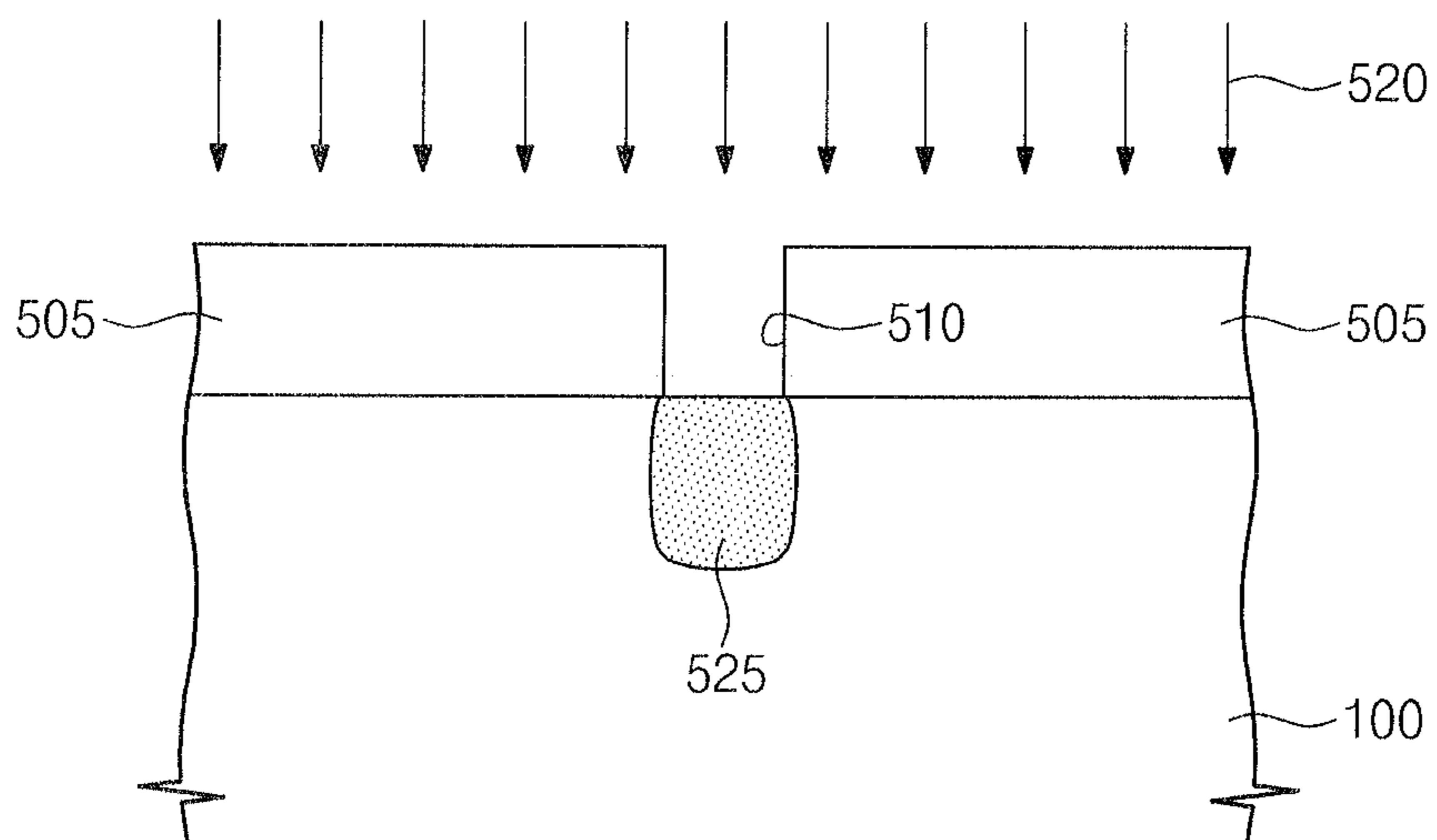


Fig. 14B

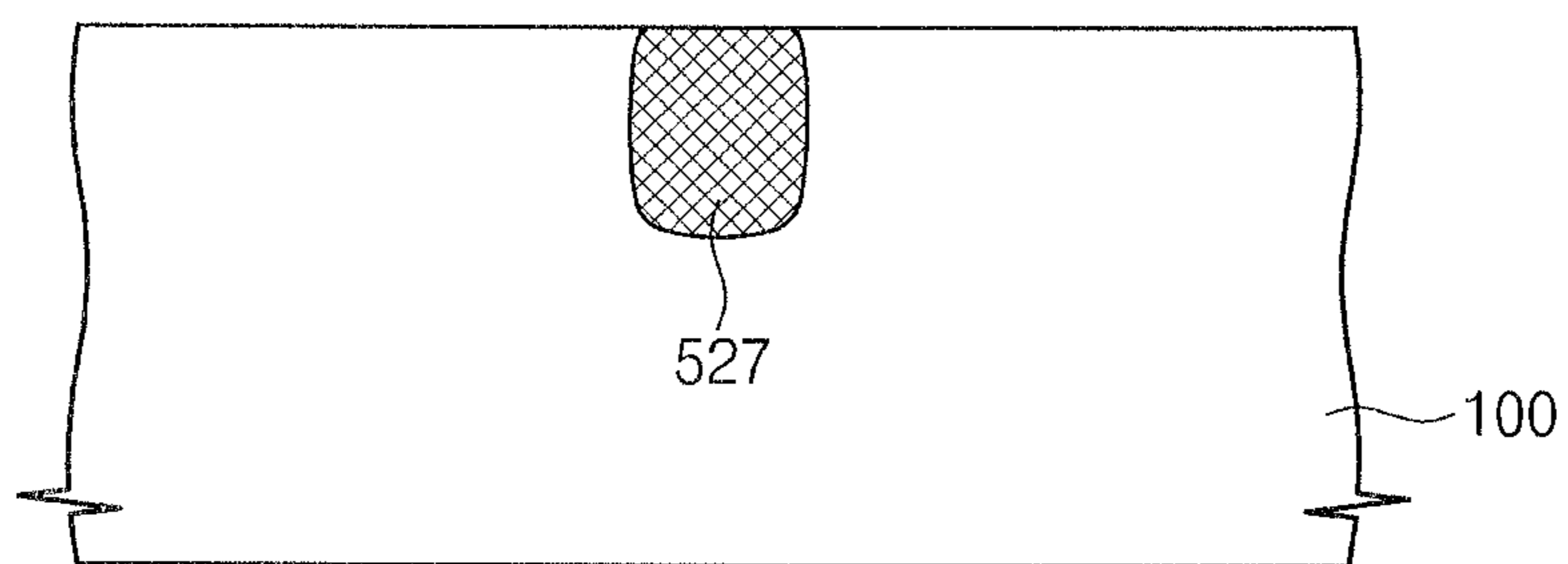


Fig. 14C

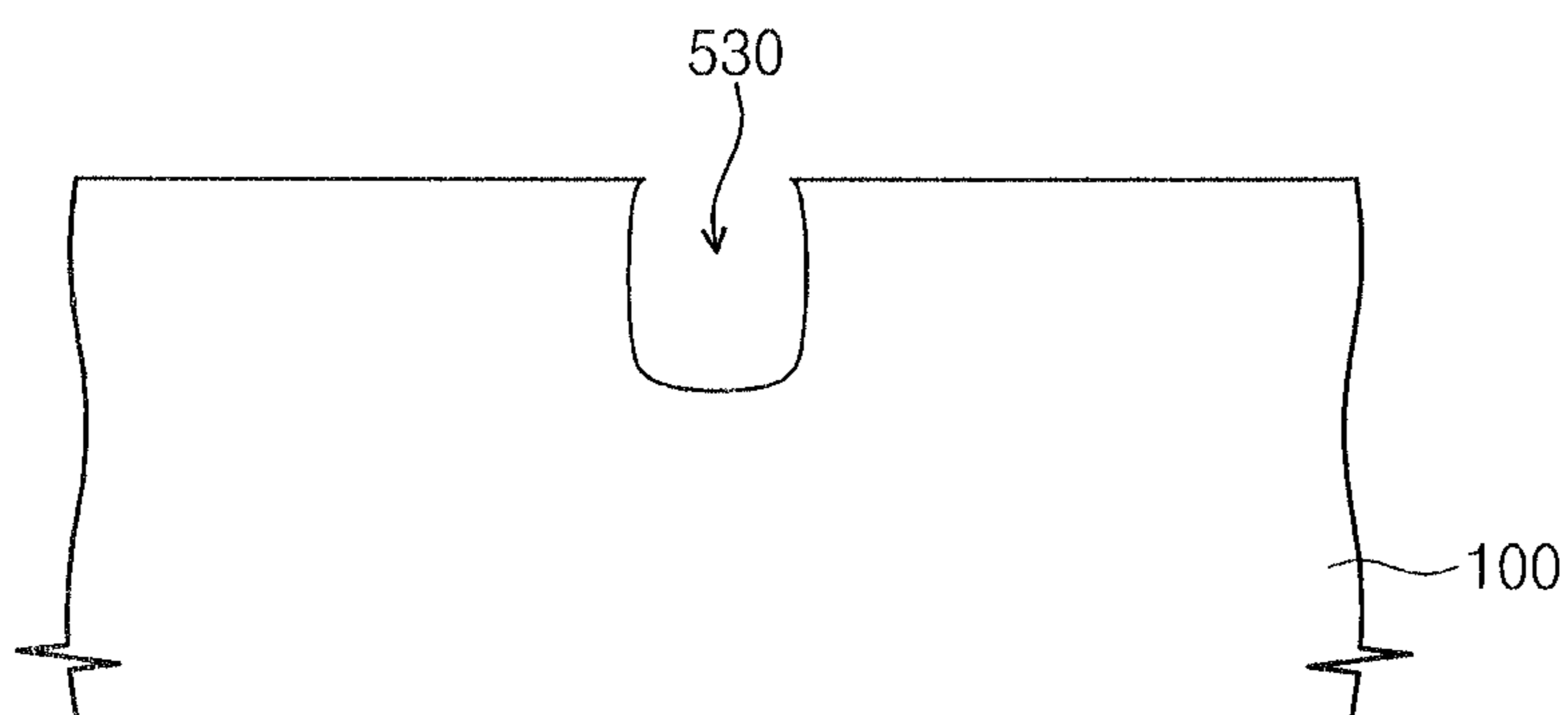


Fig. 14D

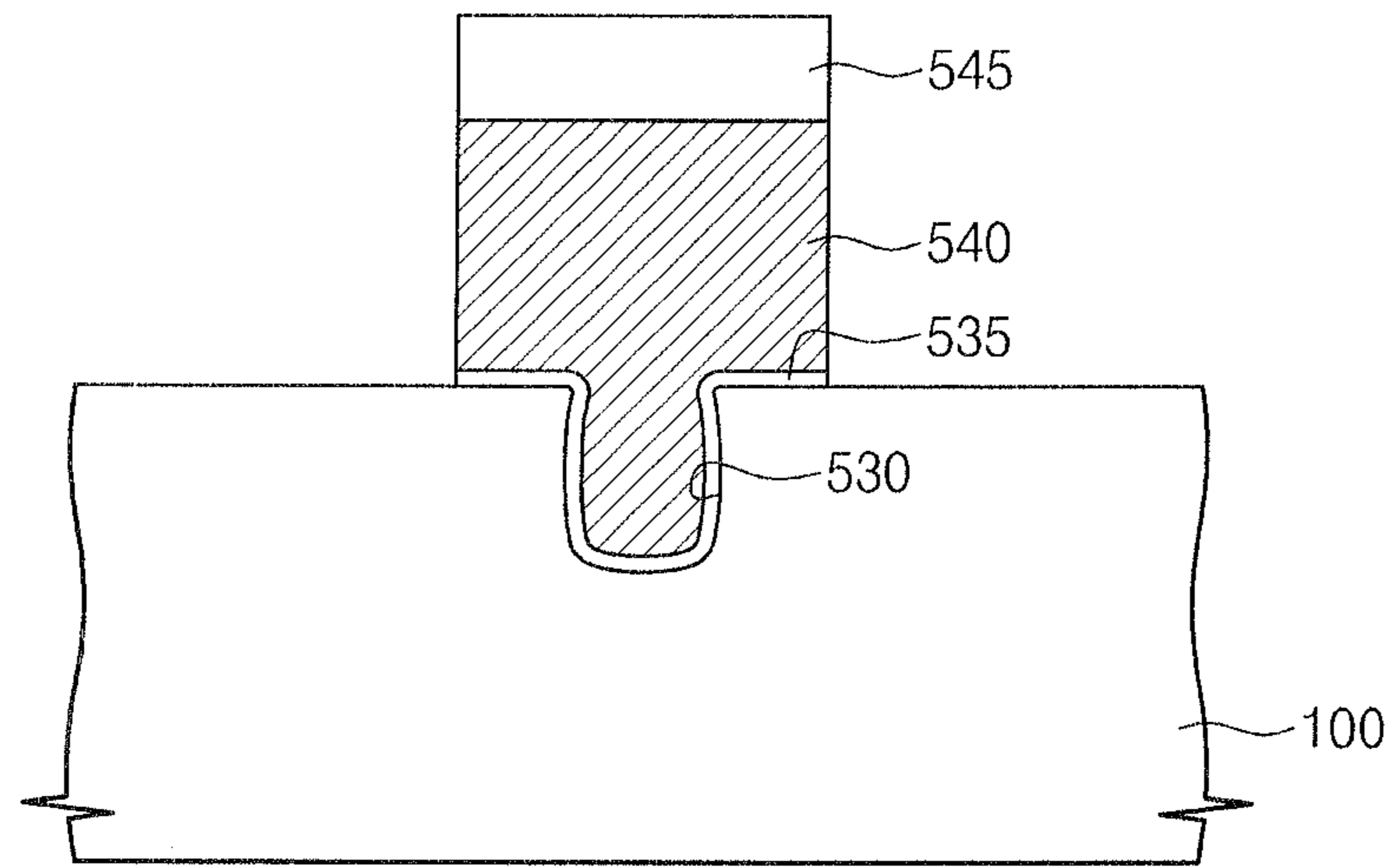


Fig. 14E

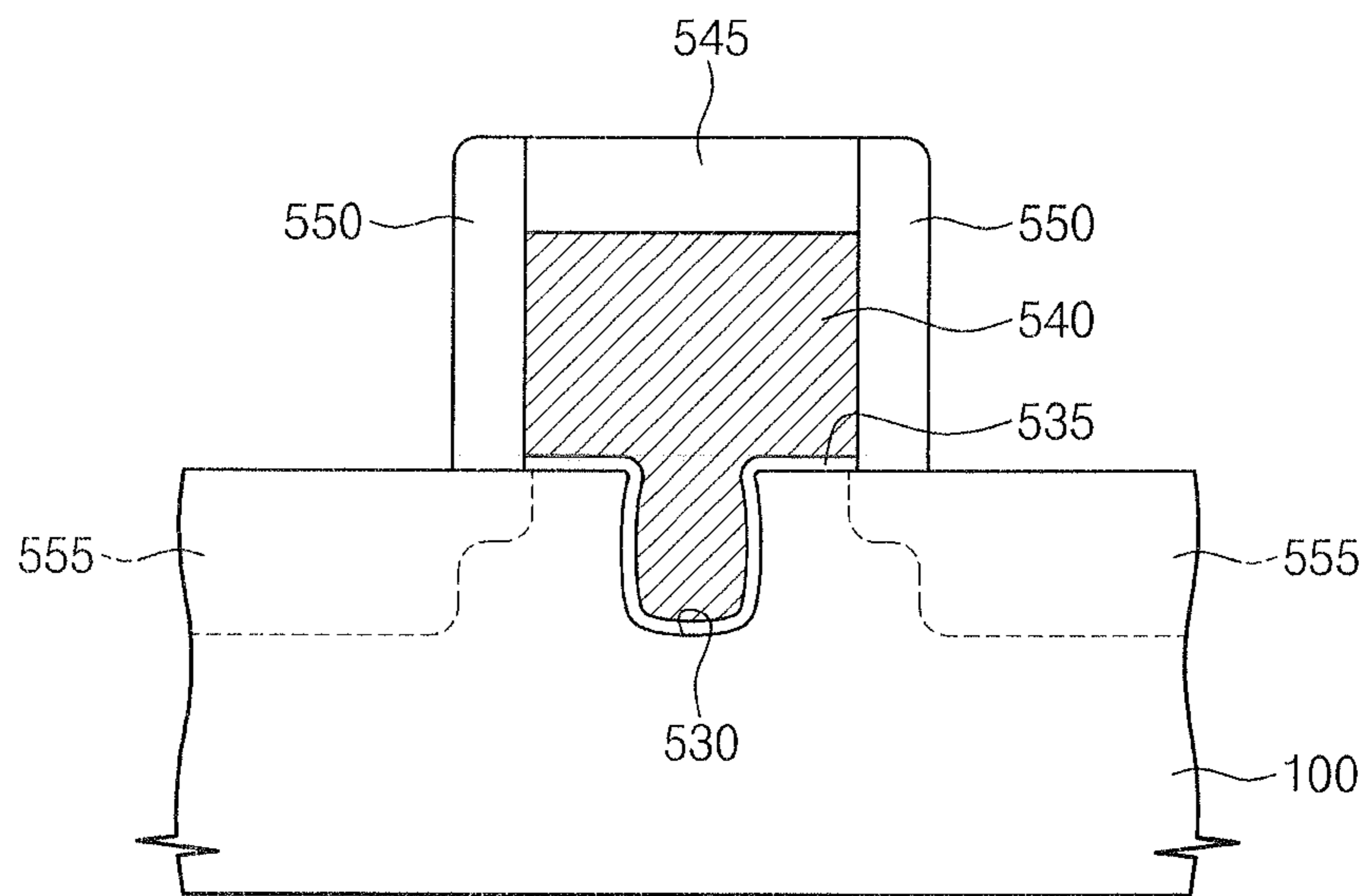


Fig. 15A

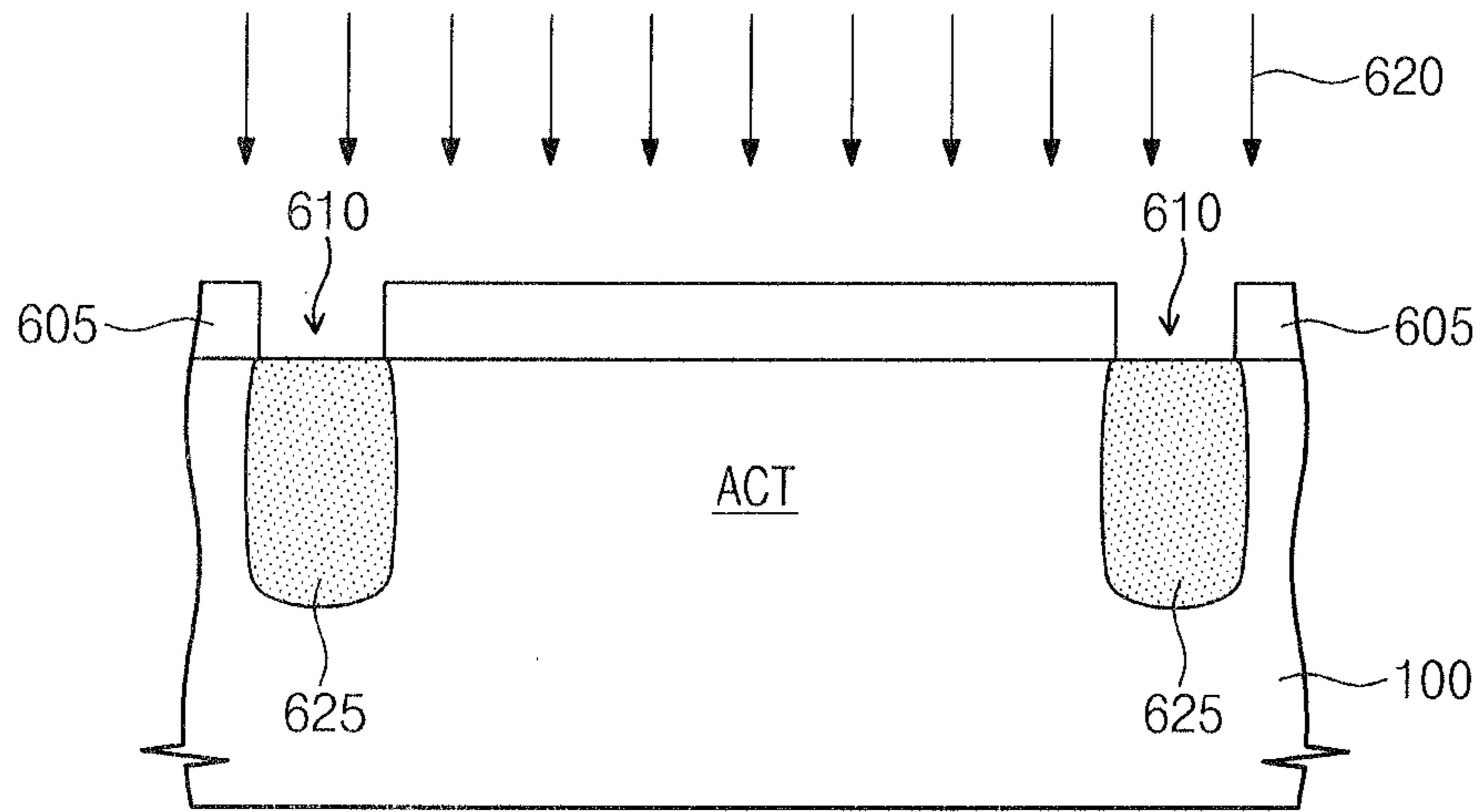


Fig. 15B

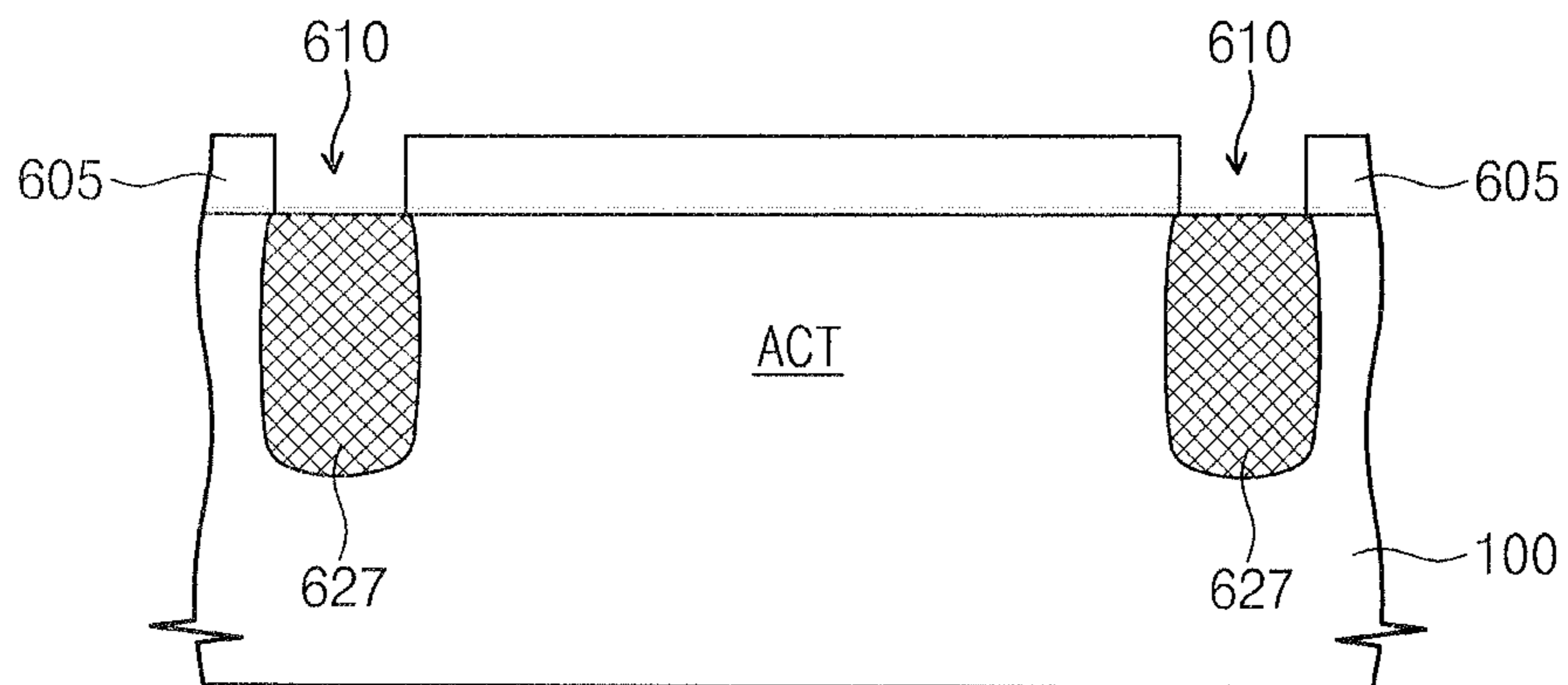


Fig. 15C

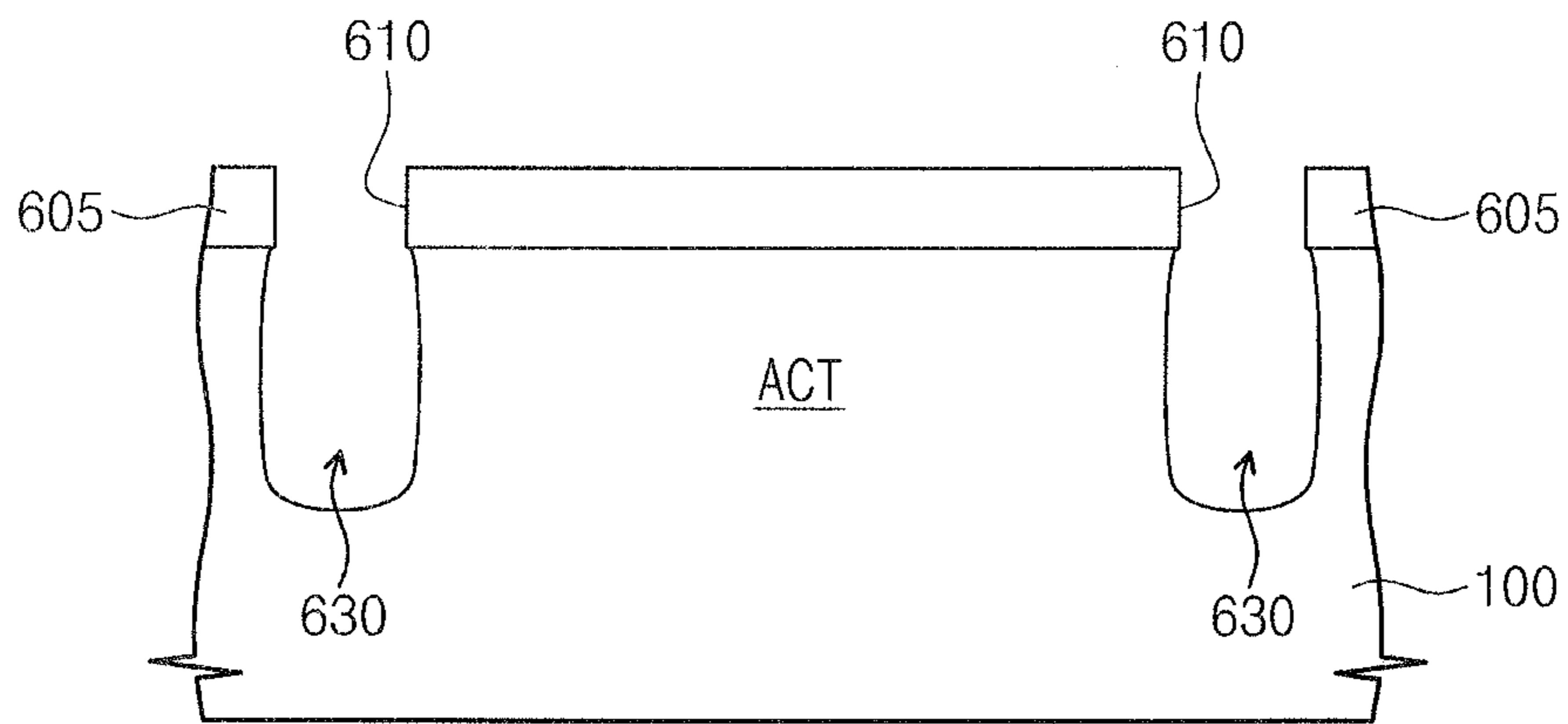


Fig. 15D

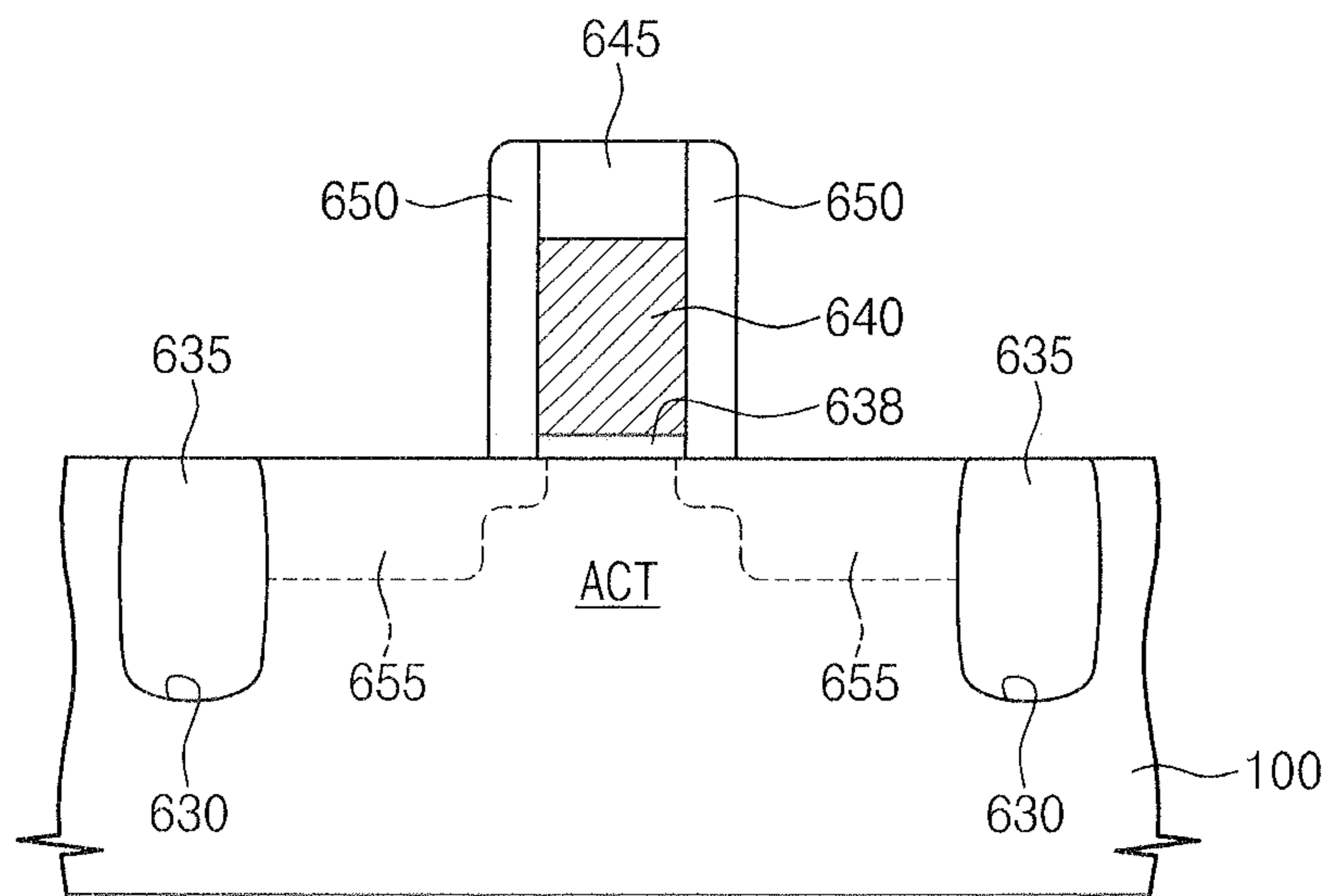


Fig. 16

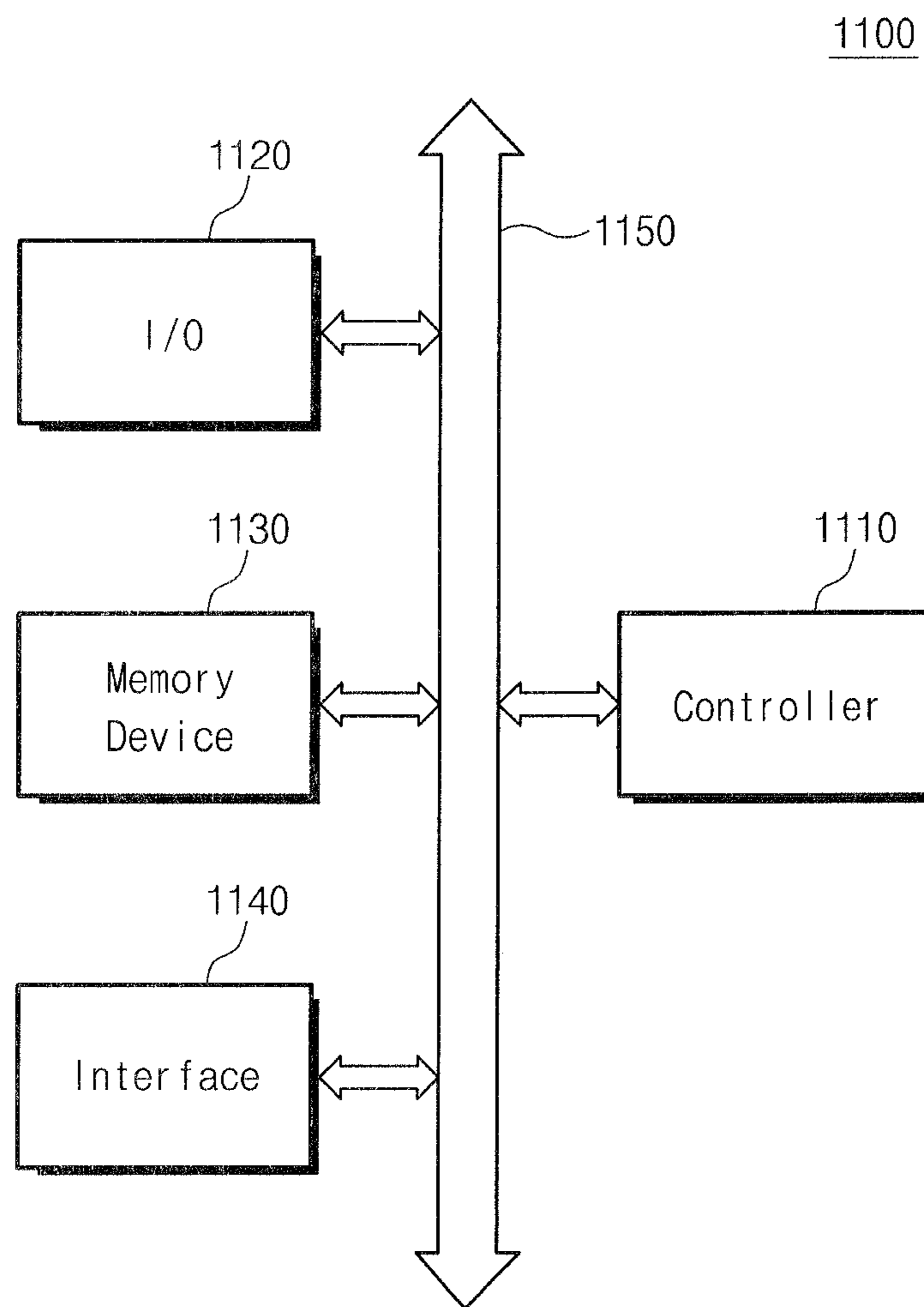
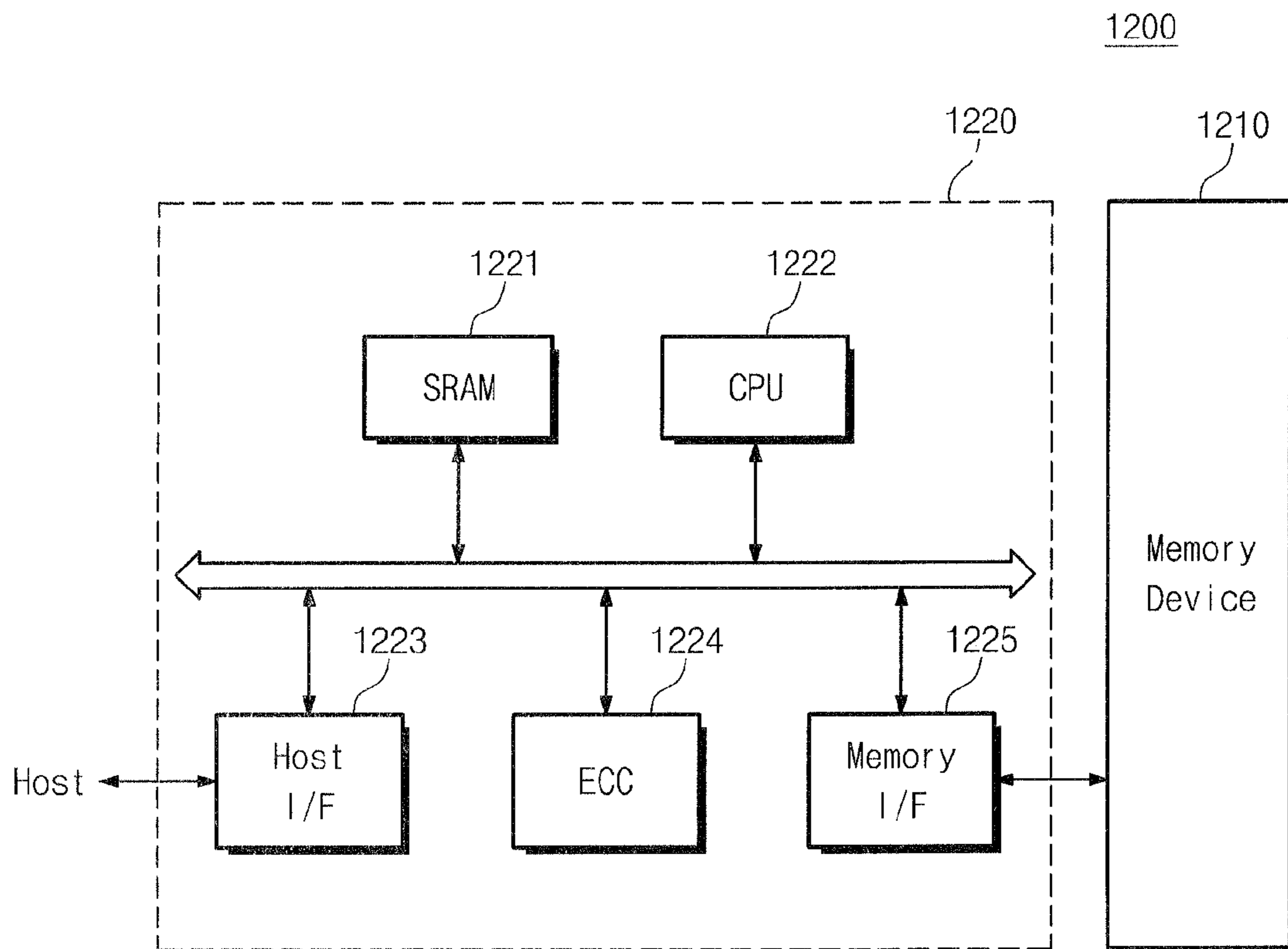


Fig. 17



**SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICES AND
METHODS OF MANUFACTURING THE
SAME**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED
APPLICATION

This U.S. non-provisional patent application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 to Korean Patent Application No. 10-2011-0082715, filed on Aug. 19, 2011, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field

The present inventive concept relates to semiconductor devices and methods of manufacturing the same.

2. Discussion of the Related Art

Semiconductor devices are used in almost every industrial field, including various electronic devices, vehicles, vessels and so forth. A field effect transistor (hereinafter referred to as a transistor) is a fundamental building block of modern semiconductor devices. Some transistors are packaged individually, but many more are found embedded in integrated circuits.

The transistor may include a source and a drain spaced apart from each other in a semiconductor substrate, and a gate electrode covering the top surface of a channel region between the source and the drain. The source and the drain may be formed by implanting dopant ions into the semiconductor substrate. The gate electrode may be insulated from the channel region by a gate oxide layer disposed between the semiconductor substrate and the gate electrode.

Developments have been made to achieve highly-integrated, high speed semiconductor devices. Thus, the size of a transistor becomes reduced, so that the turn-on current of the transistor may be decreased. However, the decrease in the turn-on current of the transistor may cause a decrease in the operation speed of the transistor. Thus, the reliability and the operation speed of the semiconductor device may be reduced. Accordingly, there is a need to increase the turn-on current of a transistor in a highly-integrated semiconductor device.

SUMMARY

Exemplary embodiments of the inventive concept provide semiconductor devices with improved reliability and methods of manufacturing the same.

Exemplary embodiments of the inventive concept provide semiconductor devices with high integration and methods of manufacturing the same.

Exemplary embodiments of the inventive concept provide semiconductor devices which can increase a turn-on current of a transistor, and methods of manufacturing the same.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept, a method of manufacturing a transistor of a semiconductor device includes: forming a gate pattern on a semiconductor substrate; forming a spacer on a sidewall of the gate pattern; wet etching the semiconductor substrate to form a first recess in the semiconductor substrate, wherein the first recess is adjacent to the spacer; and wet etching the first recess to form a second recess in the semiconductor substrate.

The first recess has curved sidewalls and the second recess has tapered sidewalls.

At least one tapered sidewall has a {111} crystal plane.

A portion of the spacer adjacent to a surface of the semiconductor substrate protrudes away from the sidewall of the gate pattern.

The spacer with the protruding portion has a cantilever shape.

The method further includes performing an epitaxial growth process to form an epitaxial pattern that fills the second recess.

A surface of the epitaxial pattern is disposed over the surface of the semiconductor substrate.

A doped portion of the epitaxial pattern is a source or a drain of a transistor.

A channel region of the transistor is formed between adjacent epitaxial patterns.

The gate pattern includes a gate electrode of a transistor.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept, a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device includes: implanting amorphization element ions into a semiconductor substrate to form an amorphous region in the semiconductor substrate; annealing the amorphous region to form a phase change region in the semiconductor substrate; wet etching the phase change region to form a first recess in the semiconductor substrate; and wet etching the first recess to form a second recess in the semiconductor substrate.

The first recess has curved sidewalls and the second recess has tapered sidewalls.

The annealing temperature is less than 500 degrees Celsius.

The annealing temperature is about 350 degrees Celsius to about 450 degrees Celsius.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept, a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device includes: wet etching a semiconductor substrate to form a first recess in the semiconductor substrate, wherein the first recess has curved sidewalls; and wet etching the first recess to form a second recess in the semiconductor substrate, wherein the second recess has tapered sidewalls.

The first recess has a concave shape.

The tapered sidewalls of the second recess are connected by a substantially straight line.

Before wet etching the semiconductor substrate to form the first recess, the method includes: implanting amorphization element ions into the semiconductor substrate to form an amorphous region in the semiconductor substrate; and annealing the amorphous region to form a phase change region in the semiconductor substrate, wherein the first recess is formed by wet etching the phase change region.

The annealing is performed at a temperature below 500 degrees Celsius.

The temperature is about 350 degrees Celsius to about 450 degrees Celsius.

The amorphization element ions are implanted into the semiconductor substrate by a vertical or tilt implantation method.

An etchant used to wet etch the semiconductor substrate to form the first recess includes at least one of hydrofluoric acid (HF), nitric acid (HNO₃) and acetic acid (CH₃COOH).

After wet etching the first recess to form the second recess, the method includes performing an epitaxial growth process to form an epitaxial pattern that fills the second recess.

The epitaxial pattern has a hexagon shape.

The epitaxial pattern has a different semiconductor element than the semiconductor substrate.

According to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept, a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device includes: implanting amorphization element ions into a semiconductor substrate to form an amorphous region in the semi-

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conductor substrate; annealing the amorphous region to form a phase change region in the semiconductor substrate; dry etching the phase change region to form a first recess in the semiconductor substrate; and wet etching the first recess to form a second recess in the semiconductor substrate.

The first recess has curved sidewalls and the second recess has tapered sidewalls.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other features of the inventive concept will become more apparent by describing in detail exemplary embodiments thereof with reference to the attached drawings in which:

FIGS. 1A through 1G are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept;

FIG. 2 is a flowchart illustrating a method of forming a concave region according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept;

FIGS. 3A and 3B are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept;

FIGS. 4A through 4D are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept;

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view illustrating a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept;

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view illustrating a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept;

FIGS. 7A through 7E are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept;

FIG. 8A is a cross-sectional view illustrating a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept;

FIG. 8B is an enlarged view of a portion 'A' of FIG. 8A;

FIGS. 9A through 9E are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept;

FIG. 10A is a cross-sectional view illustrating a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept;

FIG. 10B is an enlarged view of a portion 'B' of FIG. 10A;

FIGS. 11A through 11E are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept;

FIGS. 12A and 12B are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept;

FIG. 13 is a cross-sectional view illustrating a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept;

FIGS. 14A through 14E are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept;

FIGS. 15A through 15D are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept;

FIG. 16 is a block diagram illustrating an electronic system that may include semiconductor devices according to exemplary embodiments of the inventive concept; and

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FIG. 17 is a block diagram illustrating a memory card that may include semiconductor devices according to exemplary embodiments of the inventive concept.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

Hereinafter, exemplary embodiments of the inventive concept will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings. The inventive concept may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the exemplary embodiments set forth herein. Certain aspects of the drawings may be exaggerated for clarity.

It will be understood that when an element such as a layer, region or substrate is referred to as being "connected" or "coupled" to another element, it may be directly connected or coupled to the other element or intervening elements may be present.

Similarly, it will be understood that when an element such as a layer, region or substrate is referred to as being "on" another element, it can be directly on the other element or intervening elements may be present.

Like reference numerals may denote like elements throughout the specification and drawings, unless otherwise noted.

FIGS. 1A through 1G are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept.

FIG. 2 is a flowchart illustrating a method of forming a concave region according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 1A, a gate pattern 110 may be formed on a semiconductor substrate 100. A device isolation pattern (not shown) may be formed on the semiconductor substrate 100 to define an active portion. The active portion may correspond to a portion of the semiconductor substrate 100 surrounded by the device isolation pattern. The gate pattern 110 may cross over the active portion. In some embodiments, the gate pattern 110 may include a gate dielectric pattern 102, a gate electrode 104, and a hard mask pattern 106 which are sequentially stacked.

The semiconductor substrate 100 may be formed of a semiconductor element. For example, the semiconductor substrate 100 may be a silicon substrate. The semiconductor substrate 100 may be in a single-crystalline state. The semiconductor substrate 100 may be doped with dopants of a first conductivity type. The gate dielectric pattern 102 may include an oxide (e.g., silicon oxide), a nitride (e.g., silicon nitride), an oxynitride (e.g., silicon oxynitride), and/or a high-k dielectric (e.g., an insulating metal oxide). The gate electrode 104 may include at least one of a semiconductor doped with dopants (e.g., doped silicon), a metal-semiconductor compound (e.g., metal silicide), a conductive metal nitride (e.g., titanium nitride, and/or tantalum nitride) and a transition metal (e.g., titanium, and/or tantalum). The hard mask pattern 106 may include a nitride (e.g., silicon nitride) and/or an oxynitride (e.g., silicon oxynitride).

A dopant implantation process may be performed using the gate pattern 110 as a mask to form first and second source/drain extensions 113a and 113b. The first and second source/drain extensions 113a and 113b may be formed in the semiconductor substrate 100 at both sides of the gate pattern 110, respectively. In other words, the gate pattern 110 may be disposed on the semiconductor substrate 100 between the first and second source/drain extensions 113a and 113b. The first and second source/drain extensions 113a and 113b may be

doped with dopants of a second conductivity type. For example, one of the dopants of the first conductivity type may be P-type dopants, and one of the dopants of the second conductivity type may be N-type dopants, and vice versa.

Subsequently, a spacer layer **115** may be conformally formed on the semiconductor substrate **100**. The spacer layer **115** may include an insulating material. In some embodiments, an additional spacer layer **117** may be conformally formed on the spacer layer **115**. The additional spacer layer **117** may include an insulating material different from the spacer layer **115**. For example, the spacer layer **115** may be formed of nitride (e.g., silicon nitride), and the additional spacer layer **117** may be formed of oxide (e.g., silicon oxide). In this case, before the spacer layer **115** is formed, a buffer oxide layer (not shown) may be formed on the semiconductor substrate **100**. The buffer oxide layer may be formed by a thermal oxidation process, a chemical vapor deposition (CVD) process, and/or an atomic layer deposition (ALD) process. However, the inventive concept is not limited thereto. The spacer layer **115** may be formed of other insulating materials, except nitride. The additional spacer layer **117** may be thinner than the spacer layer **115**.

Referring to FIG. 1B, the additional spacer layer **117** and the spacer layer **115** may be successively etched by performing an etch-back process. Thus, a gate spacer **115a** may be formed on both sidewalls of the gate pattern **110**. In some embodiments, each of the gate spacers **115a** may include a protruding portion **115p** which laterally extends from a lower portion thereof. For example, each of the gate spacers **115a** may have an 'L' shape. The additional spacer layer **117** on the protruding portion **115p** may serve as an etch mask during the etch-back process, so that the protruding portion **115p** may be formed.

After the gate spacers **115a** are formed, the additional spacer layer **117** may be removed. The additional spacer layer **117** may be removed by the etch-back process. Alternatively, after the etch-back process is performed, a portion of the additional spacer layer **117** may remain. The remaining portion of the additional spacer layer **117** may be removed by a subsequent cleaning process.

Subsequently, concave regions **130a** and **130b** illustrated in FIG. 1E may be formed in the semiconductor substrate **100** at both sides of the gate pattern **110**, respectively. The method of forming the concave regions **130a** and **130b** will be described with reference to the flowchart of FIG. 2 and FIGS. 1C through 1E in more detail.

As illustrated in FIG. 2, a phase of a portion of the semiconductor substrate **100** may be changed to form a phase change region (S150). The semiconductor substrate **100** may be in the single-crystalline state and the phase change region may have a phase different from the single-crystalline state. In some embodiments, the formation of the phase change region (S150) may include implanting amorphization element ions into a portion of the semiconductor substrate to form an amorphous region (S155), and annealing the amorphous region (S157). Hereinafter, these processes will be described in more detail.

Referring to FIGS. 1C and 2, the amorphization element ions **120** may be implanted into the semiconductor substrate **100** using the gate pattern **110** and the gate spacers **115a** as masks (S155). Portions of the semiconductor substrate **100** having single-crystalline states may be amorphized by the amorphization element ions **120**. Thus, a first amorphous region **125a** and a second amorphous region **125b** may be formed in the semiconductor substrate **100** at both sides of the gate pattern **110**, respectively.

An amorphization element of the amorphization element ions **120** may be an element capable of amorphizing portions of the semiconductor substrate **100**. Additionally, the amorphization element may be electrically neutral with the semiconductor substrate **100**. For example, the amorphization element may include at least one of germanium (Ge), silicon (Si), inert gas elements (e.g., argon (Ar), krypton (Kr), xenon (Xe), etc.), carbon (C), nitrogen (N), and oxygen (O). An implantation energy of the amorphization element ions **120** may be within a range of about 5 KeV to about 40 KeV. A dose of the amorphization element ions **120** may be within a range of about 1×10^{14} atoms/cm² to about 1×10^{16} atoms/cm². However, the inventive concept is not limited to the above ranges.

In some embodiments, the amorphization element ions **120** may be implanted into the semiconductor substrate **100** by a vertical implantation method. An implantation direction of the vertical implantation method may be substantially vertical with respect to a top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100**. In other words, the implantation direction of the vertical implantation method may be vertical with respect to the top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100** or may be fractionally tilted with respect to the top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100** to minimize ion channeling. For example, the implantation direction of the vertical implantation method may have an angle within a range of 0 degrees to about 7 degrees with respect to a perpendicular line extending from the top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100**.

The amorphization element ions **120** may be implanted at room temperature. In this case, the amorphization element may include at least one of germanium (Ge), silicon (Si), and xenon (Xe).

Alternatively, the amorphization element ions **120** may be implanted at a lower process temperature within a range of about -20 degrees Celsius to about -100 degrees Celsius. In this case, even though the amorphization element ions **120** are implanted by the vertical implantation method, lateral components of the amorphization element ions **120** may increase in the semiconductor substrate **100**. As a result, a width of each of the amorphous regions **125a** and **125b** may increase. When the amorphization element ions **120** are implanted at the lower process temperature, the amorphization element may include at least one of germanium (Ge), silicon (Si), inert gas elements (e.g. argon (Ar), krypton (Kr), xenon (Xe), etc.), carbon (C), nitrogen (N), and oxygen (O).

Referring to FIGS. 1D and 2, the first and second amorphous regions **125a** and **125b** may be annealed by an annealing process performed on the semiconductor substrate **100** (S157). Thus, first and second phase change regions **127a** and **127b** may be formed. Due to the annealing process, phases of the first and second amorphous regions **125a** and **125b** may be changed to form the first and second phase change regions **127a** and **127b**. At least a portion of the first amorphous region **125a** may be changed to the first phase change region **127a** and at least a portion of the second amorphous region **125b** may be changed to the second phase change region **127b** by the annealing process. In some embodiments, each of the first and second phase change regions **127a** and **127b** may be in a micro-crystalline state. The micro-crystalline state may have a phase between an amorphous state and a poly-crystalline state. For example, the micro-crystalline state may include a plurality of crystalline nuclei.

The annealing process may be performed at a process temperature within a range of about 300 degrees Celsius to about 650 degrees Celsius. The annealing process may be performed for a process time within a range of about 0.1 second to about 5 minutes. In some embodiments, the annealing process may be performed at a process temperature of less

than 500 degrees Celsius. For example, within a range of about 350 degrees Celsius to about 450 degrees Celsius. In this case, the first and second amorphous regions **125a** and **125b** may be fully changed to form the first and second phase change regions **127a** and **127b**. Alternatively, the annealing process may be performed at a process temperature within a range of about 450 degrees Celsius to about 650 degrees Celsius. In this case, the first and second amorphous regions **125a** and **125b** may be partially changed to form first and second phase change regions. This case will be described later.

The annealing process may be performed by at least one of a batch annealing method, a rapid thermal annealing method, a spike rapid thermal annealing method, and a flash rapid thermal annealing method.

Referring to FIGS. **1E** and **2**, the first phase change region **127a** and the second phase change region **127b** may be removed to form a first concave region **130a** and a second concave region **130b**, respectively (**S160**).

The first and second phase change regions **127a** and **127b** may be removed by a wet etching process. As a result, an etch selectivity between the phase change regions **127a** and **127b** and the semiconductor substrate **100** can be improved. Additionally, an etch selectivity between the phase change regions **127a** and **127b** and the gate spacers **115a** can be improved. In some embodiments, a ratio of an etch rate of the phase change regions **127a** and **127b** to an etch rate of the semiconductor substrate **100** by the wet etching process may be within a range of about 50:1 to about 300:1. Additionally, a ratio of the etch rate of the phase change regions **127a** and **127b** to an etch rate of the gate spacers **115a** by the wet etching process may be within a range of about 10:1 to about 100:1. The first and second phase change regions **127a** and **127b** may be substantially isotropically etched by the wet etching process. In some embodiments, an etch selectivity between the phase change regions **127a** and **127b** and the hard mask pattern **106** can be improved by the wet etching process. When the hard mask pattern **106** includes the same material as the gate spacers **115a**, a ratio of the etch rate of the phase change regions **127a** and **127b** to an etch rate of the hard mask pattern **106** by the wet etching process may be within a range of about 10:1 to about 100:1.

For example, when the semiconductor substrate **100** is the silicon substrate and the gate spacers **115a** include silicon nitride, an etchant of the wet etching process may include a hydrofluoric acid (HF), a nitric acid (HNO₃), and an acetic acid (CH₃COOH). Additionally, the etchant may further include deionized water. A content ratio of the hydrofluoric acid (HF) in the etchant may be within a range of about 0.3 wt % (weight percentage) to about 1.5 wt %. A content ratio of the nitric acid (HNO₃) in the etchant may be within a range of about 40 wt % to about 60 wt %. A content ratio of the acetic acid (CH₃COOH) in the etchant may be within a range of about 1 wt % to about 5 wt %. In some embodiments, the etchant may include the hydrofluoric acid (HF) of about 0.7 wt %, the nitric acid (HNO₃) of about 50 wt %, the acetic acid (CH₃COOH) of about 2.6 wt %, and the deionized water of about 46.7 wt %.

According to the methods of forming the concave regions **130a** and **130b** described above, the amorphization element ions **120** may be implanted to form the amorphous regions **125a** and **125b**, and the amorphous regions **125a** and **125b** may be annealed to form the phase change regions **127a** and **127b**. The phase change regions **127a** and **127b** may be removed to form the concave regions **130a** and **130b**. The phase change regions **127a** and **127b** formed by the annealing process may be quickly etched in the removal process of the

phase change regions **127a** and **127b**. In other words, an etch rate of the phase change regions **127a** and **127b** in the removal process may increase. Additionally, the phase change regions **127a** and **127b** may have a different phase from the semiconductor substrate **100**. For example, the phase change regions **127a** and **127b** may be in the micro-crystalline state. Thus, the etch selectivity between the phase change regions **127a** and **127b** and the semiconductor substrate **100** can be improved.

Additionally, the phase change regions **127a** and **127b** may be removed by the wet etching process. Thus, the etch selectivity between the phase change regions **127a** and **127b** and the semiconductor substrate **100** can be improved. In addition, the etch selectivity between the phase change regions **127a** and **127b** and the gate spacers **115a** can also be improved.

In some embodiments, the amorphization element ions **120** may be implanted at the lower process temperature within the range of about -20 degrees Celsius to about -100 degrees Celsius. In this case, inner surfaces of the concave regions **130a** and **130b** may be smooth.

Subsequently, referring to FIG. **1F**, an anisotropic wet etching process may be performed on the first and second concave regions **130a** and **130b**. Thus, first and second recess regions **135a** and **135b** may be formed. The anisotropic wet etching process may use {111} crystal planes of the semiconductor substrate **100** as etch stop surfaces. In other words, an etch rate of the {111} crystal planes used in the anisotropic wet etching process may be less than those of the other crystal planes of the semiconductor substrate **100**. Thus, bottom surfaces and sidewalls of the concave regions **130a** and **130b** may be etched by the anisotropic wet etching process to form the recess regions **135a** and **135b** including tapered undercut regions **137a** and **137b**. The first recess region **135a** and the second recess region **135b** may include a first tapered undercut region **137a** and a second tapered undercut region **137b**, respectively. Inner surfaces of the first and second tapered undercut regions **137a** and **137b** may be included in the {111} crystal planes. In some embodiments, if the semiconductor substrate **100** is the silicon substrate, the anisotropic wet etching process may use an anisotropic etchant including ammonium hydroxide (NH₄OH) and/or tetramethyl ammonium hydroxide (TMAH).

The first tapered undercut region **137a** of the first recess region **135a** may have a shape laterally tapered toward a channel region under the gate pattern **110**, and the second tapered undercut region **137b** of the second recess region **135b** may have a shape laterally tapered toward the channel region. In some embodiments, the first tapered undercut region **137a** may be substantially symmetric to the second tapered undercut region **137b** with respect to the channel region. However, the inventive concept is not limited thereto.

Referring to FIG. **1G**, an epitaxial growth process may be performed on the semiconductor substrate **100** having the first and second recess regions **135a** and **135b** to form first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b**. The first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may fill the first and second recess regions **135a** and **135b**, respectively. Due to the first and second tapered undercut regions **137a** and **137b**, the first epitaxial pattern **140a** may include a first tapered portion **142a** laterally tapered toward the channel region, and the second epitaxial pattern **140b** may include a second tapered portion **142b** laterally tapered toward the channel region. The first and second tapered portions **142a** and **142b** may be disposed in the semiconductor substrate **100**. In other words, tips of the first and second tapered portions **142a** and **142b** may be disposed below a top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100** under the gate pattern **110**.

The first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may include a semiconductor element different from the semiconductor element of the semiconductor substrate **100**. Accordingly, the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may provide a compressive force or a tensile force to the channel region under the gate pattern **110**. As a result, when a transistor including the channel region is operated, the mobility of carriers in a channel generated in the channel region can increase. Because the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** include the first and second tapered portions **142a** and **142b**, the compressive force or the tensile force provided to the channel region can further increase. As a result, the mobility of the carriers in the channel may further increase.

When the transistor including the channel region is a PMOS transistor, the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may provide the compressive force to the channel region. Thus, the mobility of holes in the channel can increase. To provide the compressive force to the channel region, the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may include a semiconductor element which has a larger diameter than the semiconductor element of the semiconductor substrate **100**. For example, when the semiconductor substrate **100** is the silicon substrate, the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may include silicon-germanium (SiGe) or germanium (Ge).

When the transistor including the channel region is an NMOS transistor, the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may provide a tensile force to the channel region. Thus, the mobility of electrons in the channel can increase. To provide the tensile force to the channel region, the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may include a semiconductor element which has a smaller diameter than the semiconductor element of the semiconductor substrate **100**. For example, when the semiconductor substrate **100** is the silicon substrate, the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may include silicon carbide (SiC).

In some embodiments, top surfaces of the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may be disposed above the top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100** under the gate pattern **110**. In this case, due to the protruding portions **115p** of the gate spacers **115a**, interfaces between the semiconductor substrate **100** and the epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** can be protected. In other words, the protruding portions **115p** may cover the ends of the interfaces adjacent to the top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100**, so that the interfaces can be protected. As a result, the reliability of the transistor can be improved.

At least a portion of each of the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may be doped with dopants of the second conductivity type. In some embodiments, the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may be doped by an in-situ method. In this case, each of the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may be fully doped with dopants of the second conductivity type. In other embodiments, after the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** are formed, dopant ions of the second conductivity type may be implanted into the epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** using the gate pattern **110** and the gate spacers **115a** as masks to dope at least portions of the epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b**. In some embodiments, the first source/drain extension **113a** and the doped portion of the first epitaxial pattern **140a** may be included in a drain region of the transistor, and the second source/drain extension **113b** and the doped portion of the second epitaxial pattern **140b** may be included in a source region of the transistor.

Subsequently, an interlayer dielectric layer **145** illustrated in FIG. **5** may be formed on the semiconductor substrate **100**.

First and second contact plugs **147a** and **147b** penetrating the interlayer dielectric layer **145** may be formed. The first and second contact plugs **147a** and **147b** may be electrically connected to the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b**, respectively. Thus, the semiconductor device illustrated in FIG. **5** may be realized.

As described with reference to FIGS. **1C** and **1D**, the amorphous regions **125a** and **125b** may be fully changed to the phase change regions **127a** and **127b**. Alternatively, the amorphous regions **125a** and **125b** may be partially changed. This will be described with reference to FIGS. **3A** and **3B**.

FIGS. **3A** and **3B** are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIGS. **1C** and **3A**, the annealing process may be performed on the semiconductor substrate **100** including the amorphous regions **125a** and **125b**. At this time, the process temperature of the annealing process may be within the range of about 450 degrees Celsius to about 650 degrees Celsius. In this case, portions of the first and second amorphous regions **125a** and **125b** adjacent to the semiconductor substrate **100** may be changed into solid phase epitaxy portions EP, and other portions of the first and second amorphous regions **125a** and **125b** may be changed into first and second phase change regions **127a'** and **127b'**, respectively.

The solid phase epitaxy portion EP may be formed using the semiconductor substrate **100** adjacent to each of the amorphous regions **125a** and **125b** as a seed. The solid phase epitaxy portion EP may be in a single-crystalline state like the semiconductor substrate **100**. Each of the first and second phase change regions **127a'** and **127b'** may be in the micro-crystalline state described above.

Referring to FIG. **3B**, the first and second phase change regions **127a'** and **127b'** may be removed by the wet etching process described with reference to FIGS. **1E** and **2**. Thus, first and second concave regions **130a'** and **130b'** may be formed. At this time, since the solid phase epitaxy portions EP have the same single-crystalline state as the semiconductor substrate **100**, the solid phase epitaxy portions EP may remain. Subsequently, the anisotropic wet etching process described with reference to FIG. **1F** may be performed to form the first and second recess regions **135a** and **135b** illustrated in FIG. **1F**. Alternatively, since the first and second concave regions **130a'** and **130b'** according to the present embodiment may have different shapes than the first and second concave regions **130a** and **130b** illustrated in FIG. **1E**, the first and second recess regions according to the present embodiment may have different sizes, different widths, and/or different depths than the first and second recess regions **135a** and **135b** illustrated in FIG. **1F**. Subsequent processes may be performed in the same way as described with reference to FIGS. **1G** and **5**.

In addition, the gate pattern **110** may include the gate electrode **104**. In other words, after the gate electrode **104** is formed, the concave regions **130a** and **130b**, the recess regions **135a** and **135b**, and the epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may be formed in order. Alternatively, after the epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** are formed, the gate electrode may be formed. This will be described with reference to FIGS. **4A** to **4D**.

FIGS. **4A** through **4D** are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. **4A**, a dummy gate pattern **175** may be formed on the semiconductor substrate **100**. Subsequently, the formation process of the source/drain extensions **113a** and **113b** through the formation process of the epitaxial pat-

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terns **140a** and **140b** described with reference to FIGS. **1A** through **1F** may be performed. The dummy gate pattern **175** may include a material having an etch selectivity with respect to the gate spacers **115a** and subsequent lower interlayer dielectric layer. In some embodiments, the dummy gate pattern **175** may include a semiconductor pattern **170** and a capping pattern **173** which are sequentially stacked. When the gate spacers **115a** are formed of silicon nitride and the lower interlayer dielectric layer is formed of silicon oxide, the semiconductor pattern **170** may be formed of poly-crystalline silicon and the capping pattern **173** may be formed of silicon oxide. A buffer oxide layer (not shown) may be formed between the dummy gate pattern **175** and the semiconductor substrate **100**.

Referring to FIG. **4B**, the lower interlayer dielectric layer **145a** may be formed on the semiconductor substrate **100** including the epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** and the dummy gate pattern **175**. Subsequently, the lower interlayer dielectric layer **145a** and the capping pattern **173** may be planarized until the semiconductor pattern **170** of the dummy gate pattern **175** is exposed. The lower interlayer dielectric layer **145a** and the capping pattern **173** may be planarized by a chemical mechanical polishing (CMP) process. Upper portions of the gate spacers **115a** may be removed by the planarization process of the lower interlayer dielectric layer **145a** and the capping pattern **173**. As described above, the semiconductor pattern **170** of the dummy gate pattern **175** may have the etch selectivity with respect to the planarized lower dielectric layer **145a** and the gate spacers **115a**.

Referring to FIG. **4C**, the exposed semiconductor pattern **170** may be removed to form a gate groove **177**. If the buffer oxide layer (not shown) is formed, after the exposed semiconductor pattern **170** is removed, the buffer oxide layer may be removed to expose the semiconductor substrate **100** under the gate groove **177**. A gate dielectric layer **180** may be formed on the semiconductor substrate **100** including the gate groove **177**, and a gate conductive layer **185** may be formed on the gate dielectric layer **180** to fill the gate groove **177**. The gate dielectric layer **180** may include an oxide, a nitride, an oxynitride, and/or a high-k dielectric. The gate dielectric layer **180** may be formed by a thermal oxidation process, a nitridation process, an oxy-nitridation process, an ALD process, and/or a CVD process. The gate conductive layer **185** may include a conductive metal nitride (e.g., titanium nitride, and/or tantalum nitride), a transition metal (e.g., titanium and/or tantalum), and/or a metal (e.g., tungsten).

Referring to FIG. **4D**, the gate conductive layer **185** may be planarized to form a gate electrode **185a** in the gate groove **177**. In some embodiments, the gate dielectric layer **180** on the planarized lower interlayer dielectric layer **145a** may be removed during the planarization process of the gate conductive layer **185**. Thus, a gate dielectric pattern **180a** may be formed in the gate groove **177**. In the present embodiment, the gate electrode **185a** may be formed as a metal gate. Subsequently, an upper interlayer dielectric layer **190** illustrated in FIG. **6** may be formed. First and second contact plugs **147a** and **147b** penetrating the upper interlayer dielectric layer **190** and the planarized lower interlayer dielectric layer **145a** may be formed. Thus, a semiconductor device illustrated in FIG. **6** may be realized.

FIG. **5** is a cross-sectional view illustrating a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept. The semiconductor device of FIG. **5** may be fabricated according to the methods of FIGS. **1A** through **1G**.

Referring to FIG. **5**, the gate pattern **110** may be disposed on the semiconductor substrate **100**. The first and second

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epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may fill the first and second recess regions **135a** and **135b** formed in the semiconductor substrate **100** at both sides of the gate pattern **110**, respectively. The gate pattern **110** may include the gate dielectric pattern **102**, the gate electrode **104**, and the hard mask pattern **106**. The first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may be adjacent to both sidewalls of the gate pattern **110**. Thus, one transistor may include the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** and the gate pattern **110** disposed on the semiconductor substrate **100** between the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b**.

As described with reference to FIG. **1G**, the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may include a semiconductor element different from that of the semiconductor substrate **100**. Thus, the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may provide the compressive force or the tensile force to the channel region under the gate pattern **110**. The first epitaxial pattern **140a** may include the first tapered portion **142a** tapered toward the channel region and the second epitaxial pattern **140b** may include the second tapered portion **142b** tapered toward the channel region. The first and second tapered portions **142a** and **142b** may include inclined surfaces which are included in the $\{111\}$ crystal planes. In some embodiments, the first tapered portion **142a** may be substantially symmetric to the second tapered portion **142b** with respect to the channel region. In other words, the first tapered portion **142a** may be substantially symmetric to the second tapered portion **142b** about an imaginary vertical line which passes through a center of the channel region and is perpendicular to the top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100**. The first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may include the materials described with reference to FIG. **1G**.

The gate spacers **115a** may be disposed on both sidewalls of the gate pattern **110**, respectively. Each of the gate spacers **115a** may include the protruding portion **115p** laterally extending from a lower portion thereof. One gate spacer **115a** on one sidewall of the gate pattern **110** may be substantially symmetric to another gate spacer **115a** on another sidewall of the gate pattern **110** with respect to the gate pattern **110**. Due to the protruding portions **115p** of the gate spacers **115a**, the interfaces between the epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** and the semiconductor substrate **100** can be protected. Upper surfaces of the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** may be disposed above the top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100**.

The interlayer dielectric layer **145** may cover the gate pattern **110**, gate spacers **115a**, and the epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b**. The first and second contact plugs **147a** and **147b** may penetrate the interlayer dielectric layer **145** to be connected to top surfaces of the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b**, respectively. Each of the contact plugs **147a** and **147b** may include an ohmic pattern contacting each of the epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b**. The contact plugs **147a** and **147b** may include a metal (e.g., tungsten), a conductive metal nitride (e.g., titanium nitride, and/or tantalum nitride), and/or a transition metal (e.g., titanium, and/or tantalum). Even though not shown, interconnections may be disposed on the interlayer dielectric layer **145** to be connected to the contact plugs **147a** and **147b**. In some embodiments, at least one of the first and second contact plugs **147a** and **147b** may be omitted.

FIG. **6** is a cross-sectional view of a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept. The semiconductor device of FIG. **6** may be fabricated according to the methods of FIGS. **1A** through **1G**, except that after the epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** are formed, the gate electrode may be formed as shown in FIGS. **4A** through **4D**.

Referring to FIG. 6, the gate electrode **185a** may be disposed over the channel region between the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b**, and the gate dielectric pattern **180a** may be disposed between the gate electrode **185a** and the semiconductor substrate **100**. In FIG. 6, the gate dielectric pattern **180a** may extend to cover both sidewalls of the gate electrode **185a**. In this case, the extension of the gate dielectric pattern **180a** may be disposed between the gate electrode **185a** and the gate spacers **115a**. The lower interlayer dielectric layer **145a** may cover the epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b**. The lower interlayer dielectric layer **145a** may not cover a top surface of the gate electrode **185a**. The upper interlayer dielectric layer **190** may cover the lower interlayer dielectric layer **145a** and the top surface of the gate electrode **185a**. The first and second contact plugs **147a** and **147b** may successively penetrate the upper and lower interlayer dielectric layers **190** and **145a** to be connected to the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b**, respectively.

FIGS. 7A through 7E are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 7A, amorphization element ions **220** may be implanted into the semiconductor substrate **100** using the gate pattern **110** and the gate spacers **115a** as masks. Thus, a first amorphous region **225a** and a second amorphous region **225b** may be formed in the semiconductor substrate **100** at both sides of the gate pattern **110**, respectively. The amorphization element ions **220** may be implanted by a tilt implantation method.

Due to the tilt implantation method, the amorphization element ions **220** may be implanted to be tilted with respect to the top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100**. A tilt implantation direction of the tilt implantation method may be non-vertical and non-parallel with respect to the top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100**. In some embodiments, an angle between a vertical line that is perpendicular to the top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100** and the tilt implantation direction may be greater than 0 degrees, and equal to or less than about 70 degrees. In particular, the angle between the vertical line and the tilt implantation direction may be greater than about 7 degrees, and equal to or less than about 45 degrees. In the present embodiment, the amorphization element ions **220** may be implanted in one tilt implantation direction. Thus, the first amorphous region **225a** may be formed to be asymmetric to the second amorphous region **225b** about the channel region under the gate pattern **110**. In other words, the first amorphous region **225a** may be asymmetric to the second amorphous region **225b** about an imaginary vertical line which is perpendicular to the top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100** and passes through the center of the channel region.

In some embodiments, the first amorphous region **225a** may be disposed to be closer to the channel region as compared with the second amorphous region **225b**. The second amorphous region **225b** may be disposed to be farther from the channel region as compared with the first amorphous region **225a**.

The amorphization element of the amorphization element ions **220** may include at least one of the amorphization elements used as the amorphization element ions **120** described with reference to FIGS. 1C and 2. A dose and an implantation energy of the amorphization element ions **220** may be the same as the dose and the implantation energy of the amorphization element ions **120** described with reference to FIG. 1C, respectively.

In some embodiments, the amorphization element ions **220** may be implanted at room temperature. Alternatively, as described with reference to FIGS. 1C and 2, the amorphization element ions **220** may be implanted at the lower process temperature within the range of about -20 degrees Celsius to about -100 degrees Celsius.

Referring to FIG. 7B, an annealing process may be performed on the semiconductor substrate **100** including the first and second amorphous regions **225a** and **225b** to form first and second phase change regions **227a** and **227b**. The annealing process may be performed in the same manner as the annealing process described with reference to FIGS. 1D, 2, and 3A. Thus, the first and second amorphous regions **225a** and **225b** may be fully or partially changed to form the first and second phase change regions **227a** and **227b**. Each of the first and second phase change regions **227a** and **227b** may be in the micro-crystalline state described above.

Referring to FIG. 7C, the first and second phase change regions **227a** and **227b** may be removed to form first and second concave regions **230a** and **230b**. The first and second phase change regions **227a** and **227b** may be removed by the wet etching process described with reference to FIGS. 1E and 2. Due to the arrangement of the first and second amorphous regions **225a** and **225b**, the first concave region **230a** may be asymmetric to the second concave region **230b** about the channel region.

Referring to FIG. 7D, the anisotropic wet etching process described with reference to FIG. 1F may be performed on the first and second concave regions **230a** and **230b** to form first and second recess regions **235a** and **235b**. The first recess region **235a** may include a first tapered undercut region **237a** laterally tapered toward the channel region, and the second recess region **235b** may include a second tapered undercut region **237b** laterally tapered toward the channel region. At this time, the first recess region **235a** may be asymmetric to the second recess region **235b** about the channel region. In particular, the first tapered undercut region **237a** may be asymmetric to the second tapered undercut region **237b** about the channel region.

Referring to FIG. 7E, an epitaxial process may be performed to form first and second epitaxial patterns **240a** and **240b** filling the first and second recess regions **235a** and **235b**, respectively. The first and second epitaxial patterns **240a** and **240b** may be formed of the same material as the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** described with reference to FIG. 1G. Additionally, the first and second epitaxial patterns **240a** and **240b** may be doped by the same methods used for doping the epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** described with reference to FIG. 1G.

Due to the first and second tapered undercut regions **237a** and **237b**, the first epitaxial pattern **240a** may include a first tapered portion **242a** laterally tapered toward the channel region, and the second epitaxial pattern **240b** may include a second tapered portion **242b** laterally tapered toward the channel region. The first tapered portion **242a** may be asymmetric to the second tapered portion **242b** about the channel region.

In the present embodiment, the amorphization element ions **220** may be implanted into the semiconductor substrate **100** by the tilt implantation method. Thus, the first amorphous region **225a** may be asymmetric to the second amorphous region **225b** about the channel region. As a result, the first tapered portion **242a** of the first epitaxial pattern **240a** can be asymmetric to the second tapered portion **242b** of the second epitaxial pattern **240b** about the channel region. Thus, the reliability of a transistor which includes the first and second epitaxial patterns **240a** and **240b** and the gate pattern **110**

disposed between the first and second epitaxial patterns **240a** and **240b** may be improved. This will be described in more detail later.

Further, in the present embodiment in which the first amorphous region **225a** is asymmetric to the second amorphous region **225b** about the channel region, the removal process used in the formation of the concave regions **230a** and **230b** may be performed by other methods. In some embodiments, the phase change regions **227a** and **227b** may be removed by an isotropic dry etching process. In other embodiments, the annealing process may be omitted and the first and second amorphous regions **225a** and **225b** may be removed by the isotropic dry etching process to form the first and second concave regions **230a** and **230b**.

In some embodiments, the dummy gate pattern **175**, which is described with reference to FIGS. **4A** through **4D**, may also be applied to the method of manufacturing the semiconductor device according to the present embodiment.

A semiconductor device manufactured according to the present embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. **8A** and **8B**.

FIG. **8A** is a cross-sectional view illustrating a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept, and FIG. **8B** is an enlarged view of a portion 'A' of FIG. **8A**.

Referring to FIGS. **8A** and **8B**, the first epitaxial pattern **240a** and the second epitaxial pattern **240b** may fill the first recess region **235a** and the second recess region **235b** formed in the semiconductor substrate **100** at both sides of the gate pattern **110**, respectively. The first and second epitaxial patterns **240a** and **240b** may be adjacent to both sides of the gate pattern **110**. Thus, the first and second epitaxial patterns **240a** and **240b** and the gate pattern **110** on the semiconductor substrate **100** therebetween may be included in a transistor.

The first tapered portion **242a** of the first epitaxial pattern **240a** may be asymmetric to the second tapered portion **242b** of the second epitaxial pattern **240b** about the channel region CHR under the gate pattern **110**. In more detail, as illustrated in FIG. **8B**, the first tapered portion **242a** may be asymmetric to the second tapered portion **242b** about an imaginary vertical line **250** which passes through a center of the channel region CHR and is perpendicular to a top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100**. A first horizontal distance **D1** between a tip of the first tapered portion **242a** and the center of the channel region CHR may be different from a second horizontal distance **D2** between a tip of the second tapered portion **242b** and the center of the channel region CHR. As illustrated in FIG. **8B**, the first horizontal distance **D1** may correspond to the shortest distance between the tip of the first tapered portion **242a** and the imaginary vertical line **250**, and the second horizontal distance **D2** may correspond to the shortest distance between the tip of the second tapered portion **242b** and the imaginary vertical line **250**.

In some embodiments, the first horizontal distance **D1** may be less than the second horizontal distance **D2**. In this case, the doped portion of the first epitaxial pattern **240a** and the first source/drain extension **113a** may correspond to a drain region of the transistor, and the doped portion of the second epitaxial pattern **240b** and the second source/drain extension **113b** may correspond to a source region of the transistor. Due to the first tapered portion **242a**, the compressive force or the tensile force may be sufficiently provided to a portion of the channel region CHR adjacent to the drain region. Thus, a potential barrier of the portion of the channel region CHR adjacent to the drain region may become lower. As a result, a turn-on current of the transistor may be improved. The second tapered portion **242b** may be farther from the channel region

CHR as compared with the first tapered portion **242a**. Thus, a punch-through characteristic between the source region and the drain region (e.g., a punch-through characteristic between the first and second tapered portions **242a** and **242b**) can be improved. Additionally, the second tapered portion **242b** may also provide the compressive force or the tensile force to the channel region CHR. As a result, the turn-on current of the transistor including the first and second tapered portions **242a** and **242b** may be improved and the punch-through characteristic of the transistor may be improved.

In some embodiments, the first tapered portion **242a** may be overlapped with the gate pattern **110**, while the second tapered portion **242b** may not be overlapped with the gate pattern **110** when viewed from a plan view. However, the inventive concept is not limited thereto.

In some embodiments, the tip of the first tapered portion **242a** may be disposed at substantially the same distance from the top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100** under the gate pattern **110** as the tip of the second tapered portion **242b**. However, the inventive concept is not limited thereto.

In some embodiments, the gate dielectric pattern **180a** and the gate electrode **185a** illustrated in FIG. **6** may be replaced with the gate pattern **110** illustrated in FIGS. **8A** and **8B**.

FIGS. **9A** through **9E** are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept. The gate pattern **110** of the present embodiment may be fabricated using the processes described with reference to FIGS. **1A** and **1B**.

Referring to FIG. **9A**, first amorphization element ions **320a** may be implanted into the semiconductor substrate **100** using the gate pattern **110** and the gate spacers **115a** as masks. The first amorphization element ions **320a** may be implanted by a vertical implantation method. Second amorphization element ions **320b** may be implanted into the semiconductor substrate **100** using the gate pattern **110** and the gate spacers **115a** as masks. The second amorphization element ions **320b** may be implanted by a tilt implantation method. Due to the first and second amorphization element ions **320a** and **320b**, a first amorphous region **325a** and a second amorphous region **325b** may be formed in the semiconductor substrate **100** at both sides of the gate pattern **110**, respectively.

An implantation direction of the first amorphization element ions **320a** may be substantially the same as that of the amorphization element ions **120** described with reference to FIGS. **1C** and **2**. An implantation direction of the second amorphization element ions **320b** may be substantially the same as that of the amorphization element ions **220** described with reference to FIG. **7A**. An implantation energy of the first amorphization element ions **320a** may be greater than that of the second amorphization element ions **320b**.

The first amorphous region **325a** may include a first sidewall and a second sidewall which are opposite to each other. Similarly, the second amorphous region **325b** may include a first sidewall and a second sidewall which are opposite to each other. The first sidewalls of the first and second amorphous regions **325a** and **325b** may be adjacent to the channel region between the first and second amorphous regions **325a** and **325b**. Due to the second amorphization element ions **320b**, an upper portion of the first sidewall of the first amorphous region **325a** may laterally protrude toward the channel region more than a lower portion of the first sidewall of the first amorphous region **325a**. Thus, the first amorphous region **325a** may include a tilt implantation region **300a** protruding toward the channel region. On the other hand, since the second amorphization element ions **320b** are implanted in one tilted direction, an upper portion of the first sidewall of the

second amorphous region **325b** may not protrude toward the channel region. As a result, the first sidewall of the first amorphous region **325a** may have a structure which is asymmetric to the first sidewall of the second amorphous region **325b** about the channel region between the first and second amorphous regions **325a** and **325b**.

In some embodiments, due to the second amorphization element ions **320b**, an upper portion of the second sidewall of the second amorphous region **325b** may laterally protrude, so that the second amorphous region **325b** may include a tilt implantation region **300b**. The tilt implantation region **300b** of the second amorphous region **325b** may not influence the channel region between the first and second amorphous regions **325a** and **325b**. In other embodiments, if the second sidewall of the second amorphous region **325b** is in contact with a device isolation pattern (not shown), the tilt implantation region **300b** of the second amorphous region **325b** may not be formed.

A first amorphization element of the first amorphization element ions **320a** may include at least one of the amorphization elements used as the amorphization element ions **120** described with reference to FIGS. **1C** and **2**. A second amorphization element of the second amorphization element ions **320b** may include at least one of the amorphization elements used as the amorphization element ions **120** described with reference to FIGS. **1C** and **2**. The first amorphization element may be the same as the second amorphization element. Alternatively, the first amorphization element may be different from the second amorphization element. Each dose of the first and second amorphization element ions **320a** and **320b** may be the same as the dose of the amorphization element ions **120** described with reference to FIG. **1C**. The first and second amorphization element ions **320a** and **320b** may be implanted at room temperature. Alternatively, the first and second amorphization element ions **320a** and **320b** may be implanted at the lower process temperature within the range of about -20 degrees Celsius to about -100 degrees Celsius.

Referring to FIG. **9B**, an annealing process may be performed on the semiconductor substrate **100** including the first and second amorphous regions **325a** and **325b** to form first and second phase change regions **327a** and **327b**. The annealing process may be performed in the same manner as the annealing process described with reference to FIGS. **1D**, **2**, and **3A**. Thus, the first and second amorphous regions **325a** and **325b** may be fully or partially changed to the first and second phase change regions **327a** and **327b**. Each of the first and second phase change regions **327a** and **327b** may be in the micro-crystalline state described above.

Due to the shapes of the first and second amorphous regions **325a** and **325b**, a first sidewall of the first phase change region **327a** may include a protruding portion **305a** protruding toward the channel region between the first and second phase change regions **327a** and **327b**, while a protruding portion is not formed at a first sidewall of the second phase change region **327b** adjacent to the channel region. In some embodiments, due to the tilt implantation region **300b** of the second amorphous region **325b**, the second phase change region **327b** may include a protruding portion **305b** formed at a second sidewall of the second phase change region **327b** opposite to the first sidewall thereof. Alternatively, the second phase change region **327b** may not include the protruding portion **305b**.

Referring to FIG. **9C**, the first and second phase change regions **327a** and **327b** may be removed to form first and second concave regions **330a** and **330b**. In some embodiments, the first and second phase change regions **327a** and **327b** may be removed by the wet etching process described

with reference to FIGS. **1E** and **2**. The first concave region **330a** may include an undercut region **310a** which is formed by removing the protruding portion **305a** of the first phase change region **327a**. The undercut region **310a** of the first concave region **330a** may have a laterally hollowed shape protruding toward the channel region between the first and second concave regions **330a** and **330b**. In other words, the first concave region **330a** may include a first sidewall adjacent to the channel region, and an upper portion of the first sidewall of the first concave region **330a** may laterally protrude toward the channel region more than a lower portion of the first sidewall of the first concave region **330a**. On the other hand, an undercut region is not formed at a first sidewall of the second concave region **330b** adjacent to the channel region between the first and second concave regions **330a** and **330b**. In some embodiments, an undercut region **310b**, which may be formed by removing the protruding portion **305b** of the second phase change region **327b**, may be formed at a second sidewall of the second concave region **330b** opposite to the first sidewall thereof. Alternatively, the second concave region **330b** may not include the undercut region **310b**.

Referring to FIG. **9D**, the anisotropic wet etching process described with reference to FIG. **1F** may be performed on the first and second concave regions **330a** and **330b**. As a result, first and second recess regions **335a** and **335b** may be formed. The first recess region **335a** may include a plurality of first tapered undercut regions **RTUa** and **RTL_a** which are laterally tapered toward the channel region. The plurality of first tapered undercut regions **RTUa** and **RTL_a** may include an upper tapered undercut region **RTUa** and a lower tapered undercut region **RTL_a** disposed under the upper tapered undercut region **RTUa**. An inner sidewall of the undercut region **310a** of the first concave region **330a** may be etched by the anisotropic wet etching process to form the upper tapered undercut region **RTUa**, and the lower portion of the first sidewall of the first concave region **330a** disposed under the undercut region **310a** may be etched by the anisotropic wet etching process to form the lower tapered undercut region **RTL_a**. On the other hand, since an undercut region is not formed at the first sidewall of the second concave region **330b**, the second recess region **335b** may include one tapered undercut region **RTSb** tapered toward the channel region. The tapered undercut region **RTSb** of the second recess region **335b** may be referred to as a second tapered undercut region **RTSb**.

In some embodiments, the first recess region **335a** may further include one additional tapered undercut region **RTSa** opposite to the upper and lower tapered undercut regions **RTUa** and **RTL_a**. The second recess region **335b** may further include a plurality of additional tapered undercut regions **RTUb** and **RTL_b** opposite to the second tapered undercut region **RTSb**. In other embodiments, the additional tapered undercut regions **RTSa**, **RTUb**, and **RTL_b** of the first and second recess regions **335a** and **335b** may be omitted.

Referring to FIG. **9E**, an epitaxial process may be performed to form first and second epitaxial patterns **340a** and **340b** filling the first and second recess regions **335a** and **335b**, respectively. The first and second epitaxial patterns **340a** and **340b** may be formed of the same material as the first and second epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** described with reference to FIG. **1G**. Additionally, the first and second epitaxial patterns **340a** and **340b** may be doped by the same methods used for doping the epitaxial patterns **140a** and **140b** described with reference to FIG. **1G**.

Due to the plurality of first tapered undercut regions **RTUa** and **RTL_a** of the first recess region **335a**, the first epitaxial pattern **340a** may include a plurality of first tapered portions

CTUa and CTLa laterally tapered toward the channel region between the first and second epitaxial patterns **340a** and **340b**. Due to the second tapered undercut region RTSb of the second recess region **335b**, the second epitaxial pattern **340b** may include one second tapered portion CTSb laterally tapered toward the channel region between the first and second epitaxial patterns **340a** and **340b**.

In some embodiments, the first epitaxial pattern **340a** may further include an additional tapered portion CTSa filling the additional tapered undercut region RTSa of the first recess regions **335a**. The second epitaxial pattern **340b** may further include additional tapered portions CTUb and CTLb filling the additional tapered undercut regions RTUb and RTLb of the second recess region **335b**, respectively. In other embodiments, the additional tapered portions CTSa, CTUb, and CTLb of the first and second epitaxial patterns **340a** and **340b** may be omitted.

Subsequently, the interlayer dielectric layer **145** and the contact plugs **147a** and **147b** illustrated in FIG. **10A** may be formed. In some embodiments, the technique described with reference to FIGS. **4A** through **4D** may be applied to the present embodiment.

In the present embodiment, characteristics of the transistor may be optimized using the vertical implantation method and the tilt implantation method.

In addition, in the present embodiment in which the first amorphous region **325a** is asymmetric to the second amorphous region **325b** about the channel region, the removal process used in the formation of the concave regions **330a** and **330b** may be performed by other methods. In some embodiments, the phase change regions **327a** and **327b** may be removed by an isotropic dry etching process. In other embodiments, the annealing process may be omitted and the first and second amorphous regions **325a** and **325b** may be removed by the isotropic dry etching process to form the first and second concave regions **330a** and **330b**.

Next, a semiconductor device manufactured according to the present embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. **10A** and **10B**.

FIG. **10A** is a cross-sectional view illustrating a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept, and FIG. **10B** is an enlarged view of a portion 'B' of FIG. **10A**.

Referring to FIGS. **10A** and **10B**, the first epitaxial pattern **340a** and the second epitaxial pattern **340b** may fill the first recess region **335a** and the second recess region **335b** formed in the semiconductor substrate **100** at both sides of the gate pattern **110**, respectively. The first and second epitaxial patterns **340a** and **340b** may be adjacent to both sides of the gate pattern **110**. Thus, the first and second epitaxial patterns **340a** and **340b** and the gate pattern **110** on the semiconductor substrate **100** therebetween may be included in a transistor. The first epitaxial pattern **340a** may be asymmetric to the second epitaxial pattern **340b** about the channel region CHR under the gate pattern **110**. In other words, the first epitaxial pattern **340a** may be asymmetric to the second epitaxial pattern **340b** about an imaginary vertical line **350** which passes through a center of the channel region CHR and is perpendicular to a top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100**.

As illustrated in FIG. **10B**, the first epitaxial pattern **340a** may include a plurality of first tapered portions CTUa and CTLa laterally tapered toward the channel region CHR, and the second epitaxial pattern **340b** may include one second tapered portion CTSb laterally tapered toward channel region CHR. The first tapered portions CTUa and CTLa may include an upper tapered portion CTUa and a lower tapered portion CTLa.

A first depth R1 of a tip of the upper tapered portion CTUa may be different from a second depth R2 of a tip of the second tapered portion CTSb with respect to the top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100** under the gate pattern **110**. Additionally, a depth of a tip of the lower tapered portion CTLa may be different from the second depth R2.

In some embodiments, the first depth R1 may be less than the second depth R2. In this case, the doped portion of the first epitaxial pattern **340a** and the first source/drain extension **113a** may be included in a drain region of the transistor, and the doped portion of the second epitaxial pattern **340b** and the second source/drain extension **113b** may be included in a source region of the transistor. Since the first depth R1 is less than the second depth R2, the upper tapered portion CTUa of the first epitaxial pattern **340a** may provide sufficient compressive or tensile force to a portion of the channel region CHR adjacent to the drain region. Thus, a potential barrier of the portion of the channel region CHR adjacent to the drain region may decrease, so that the turn-on current of the transistor may increase. Additionally, since the second depth R2 is greater than the first depth R1, a distance between the tip of the second tapered portion CTSb and the tip of the upper tapered portion CTUa may increase, so that the punch-through characteristic between the source region and the drain region may be improved. Additionally, the second tapered portion CTSb may also provide the compressive force or the tensile force to the channel region CHR. Moreover, the lower tapered portion CTLa may provide the compressive force or the tensile force to a lower portion of the channel region CHR. Thus, the mobility of carriers in the channel generated in the channel region CHR may be improved.

In some embodiments, a first horizontal distance Da between the tip of the upper tapered portion CTUa and the center (e.g., the imaginary vertical line **350**) of the channel region CHR may be different from a second horizontal distance Db between the tip of the second tapered portion CTSb and the center (e.g., the imaginary vertical line **350**) of the channel region CHR. If the doped portion of the first epitaxial pattern **340a** is included in the drain region, the first horizontal distance Da may be less than the second horizontal distance Db. A third horizontal distance between the tip of the lower tapered portion CTLa and the imaginary vertical line **350** may be greater than the first horizontal distance Da.

In some embodiments, the gate pattern **110** illustrated in FIG. **10A** may be replaced with the gate dielectric pattern **180a** and the gate electrode **185a** illustrated in FIG. **6**.

FIGS. **11A** through **11E** are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept, and FIGS. **12A** and **12B** are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept. The gate pattern **110** of the present embodiment may be fabricated using the processes described with reference to FIGS. **1A** and **1B**.

Referring to FIG. **11A**, first amorphization element ions **420a** may be implanted by a vertical implantation method using the gate pattern **110** and the gate spacers **115a** as masks. Second amorphization element ions **420b** may be implanted by a first tilt implantation method using the gate pattern **110** and the gate spacers **115a** as masks. Third amorphization element ions **420c** may be implanted by a second tilt implantation method using the gate pattern **110** and the gate spacers **115a** as masks. Since the first, second, and third amorphization element ions **420a**, **420b**, and **420c** are implanted into the semiconductor substrate **100**, a first amorphous region **425a**

and a second amorphous region **425b** may be formed in the semiconductor substrate **100** at both sides of the gate pattern **110**, respectively.

An implantation direction of the first amorphization element ions **420a** may be substantially the same as that of the amorphization element ions **120** described with reference to FIGS. **1C** and **2**. An implantation direction of the second amorphization element ions **420b** may be substantially the same as that of the amorphization element ions **220** described with reference to FIG. **7A**. An implantation direction of the third amorphization element ions **420c** may be different from the implantation direction of the second amorphization element ions **420b**. In some embodiments, the implantation direction of the third amorphization element ions **420c** may have an angle substantially symmetric to the implantation direction of the second amorphization element ions **420b** with respect to a vertical line perpendicular to the top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100**. For example, the implantation direction of the second amorphization element ions **420b** may have a first tilt angle in a clockwise direction from the vertical line perpendicular to the top surface of the semiconductor substrate **100**, and the implantation direction of the third amorphization element ions **420c** may have a second tilt angle in a counterclockwise direction from the vertical line. A size of the first tilt angle may be substantially the same as that of the second tilt angle.

The implantation energy of the first amorphization element ions **420a** may be greater than those of the second and third amorphization element ions **420b** and **420c**. The implantation energy of the second amorphization element ions **420b** may be substantially the same as that of the third amorphization element ions **420c**.

The first amorphous region **425a** may include a first sidewall and a second sidewall which are opposite to each other, and the second amorphous region **425b** may include a first sidewall and a second sidewall which are opposite to each other. The first sidewalls of the first and second amorphous regions **425a** and **425b** may be adjacent to the channel region between the first and second amorphous regions **425a** and **425b**. Due to the second amorphization element ions **420b**, an upper portion of the first sidewall of the first amorphous region **425a** may laterally protrude toward the channel region more than a lower portion of the first sidewall of the first amorphous region **425a**. Thus, the first amorphous region **425a** may include a first tilt implantation region **400a** laterally protruding toward the channel region. Due to the third amorphization element ions **420c**, an upper portion of the first sidewall of the second amorphous region **425b** may laterally protrude toward the channel region more than a lower portion of the first sidewall of the second amorphous region **425b**. Thus, the second amorphous region **425b** may include a second tilt implantation region **402b** laterally protruding toward the channel region.

In some embodiments, an additional tilt implantation region **402a** may be formed at an upper portion of the second sidewall of first amorphous region **425a** by the third amorphization element ions **420c**. An additional tilt implantation region **400b** may be formed at an upper portion of the second sidewall of second amorphous region **425b** by the second amorphization element ions **420b**. In other embodiments, if the second sidewalls of the first and second amorphous regions **425a** and **425b** are in contact with a device isolation pattern (not shown), the additional tilt implantation regions **402a** and **400b** may be omitted.

A first amorphization element of the first amorphization element ions **420a** may include at least one of the amorphization elements used as the amorphization element ions **120**

described with reference to FIGS. **1C** and **2**. A second amorphization element of the second amorphization element ions **420b** may include at least one of the amorphization elements used as the amorphization element ions **120** described with reference to FIGS. **1C** and **2**. A third amorphization element of the third amorphization element ions **420c** may include at least one of the amorphization elements used as the amorphization element ions **120** described with reference to FIGS. **1C** and **2**. The first, second and third amorphization elements may be the same as each other. Alternatively, the first, second and third amorphization elements may be different from each other. Each dose of the first, second and third amorphization element ions **420a**, **420b** and **420c** may be substantially the same as the dose of the amorphization element ions **120** described with reference to FIGS. **1C** and **2**. The first, second and third amorphization element ions **420a**, **420b** and **420c** may be implanted at room temperature. Alternatively, the first, second and third amorphization element ions **420a**, **420b** and **420c** may be implanted at the lower process temperature within the range of about -20 degrees Celsius to about -100 degrees Celsius.

Referring to FIG. **11B**, an annealing process may be performed on the semiconductor substrate **100** including the first and second amorphous regions **425a** and **425b** to form first and second phase change regions **427a** and **427b**. The annealing process may be performed in the same way as the annealing process described with reference to FIGS. **1D** and **2**. In some embodiments, the annealing process may be performed at the process temperature within the range of about 350 degrees Celsius to about 450 degrees Celsius. Thus, the first and second amorphous regions **425a** and **425b** may be fully changed to the first and second phase change regions **427a** and **427b** as illustrated in FIG. **11B**.

Due to the first and second tilt implantation regions **400a** and **402b**, the first and second phase change regions **427a** and **427b** may include first and second protruding portions **405a** and **407b** laterally protruding toward the channel region between the first and second phase change regions **427a** and **427b**, respectively. In some embodiments, due to the additional tilt implantation regions **402a** and **400b**, the first and second phase change regions **427a** and **427b** may further include additional protruding portions **407a** and **405b**, respectively. In other embodiments, the additional protruding portions **407a** and **405b** may be omitted.

Referring to FIG. **11C**, the first and second phase change regions **427a** and **427b** may be removed to form first and second concave regions **430a** and **430b**. The first and second phase change regions **427a** and **427b** may be removed by the wet etching process described with reference to FIGS. **1E** and **2**. Since the first and second protruding portions **405a** and **407b** are removed, the first concave region **430a** may include a first undercut region **410a** protruding toward the channel region, and the second concave region **430b** may include a second undercut region **412b** protruding toward the channel region. In some embodiments, if the additional protruding portions **407a** and **405b** are removed, the first and second concave regions **430a** and **430b** may include additional undercut regions **412a** and **410b**, respectively.

Referring to FIG. **11D**, the anisotropic wet etching process described with reference to FIG. **1F** may be performed on the first and second concave regions **430a** and **430b**. As a result, first and second recess regions **435a** and **435b** may be formed. Due to the first undercut region **410a**, the first recess region **435a** may include a first upper tapered undercut region **RTU1** and a first lower tapered undercut region **RTL1** which are laterally tapered toward the channel region. Due to the second undercut region **412b**, the second recess region **435b** may

include a second upper tapered undercut region RTU2 and a second lower tapered undercut region RTL2 which are laterally tapered toward the channel region.

Further, the annealing process described with reference to FIG. 11B may be performed at the process temperature which is greater than about 450 degrees Celsius and is equal to or less than about 650 degrees Celsius. In this case, as illustrated in FIG. 12A, portions of the first and second amorphous regions 425a and 425b adjacent to the semiconductor substrate 100 may be changed to solid phase epitaxy portions EP, and first and second phase change regions 427a' and 427b' may be formed on the solid phase epitaxy portions EP. The wet etching process described with reference to FIGS. 1E and 2 may be performed to remove the first and second phase change regions 427a' and 427b'. Thus, first and second concave regions 430a' and 430b' illustrated in FIG. 12B may be formed. Subsequently, the anisotropic wet etching process described with reference to FIG. 1F may be performed to form the first and second recess regions 435a and 435b illustrated in FIG. 11D.

Referring to FIG. 11E, an epitaxial process may be performed to form first and second epitaxial patterns 440a and 440b filling the first and second recess regions 435a and 435b, respectively. The first and second epitaxial patterns 440a and 440b may be formed of the same material as the first and second epitaxial patterns 140a and 140b described with reference to FIG. 1G. The first and second epitaxial patterns 440a and 440b may be doped by the same methods used for doping the epitaxial patterns 140a and 140b described with reference to FIG. 1G.

The first epitaxial pattern 440a may include a first upper tapered portion CTU1 and a first lower tapered portion CTL1 which are laterally tapered toward the channel region, and the second epitaxial pattern 440b may include a second upper tapered portion CTU2 and a second lower tapered portion CTL2 which are laterally tapered toward the channel region.

Subsequently, the interlayer dielectric layer 145 and the contact plugs 147a and 147b of FIG. 13 may be formed. The technique described with reference to FIGS. 4A through 4D may be applied to the present embodiment.

FIG. 13 is a cross-sectional view illustrating a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept. The semiconductor device of FIG. 13 may be fabricated according to the methods of FIGS. 11A through 11E.

Referring to FIG. 13, the first epitaxial pattern 440a and the second epitaxial pattern 440b may fill the first recess region 435a and the second recess region 435b formed in the semiconductor substrate 100, respectively. The first and second recess regions 435a and 435b may be laterally spaced apart from each other. The gate pattern 110 may be disposed on the channel region between the first and second epitaxial patterns 440a and 440b. The first epitaxial pattern 440a may include the first upper and lower tapered portions CTU1 and CTL1 tapered toward the channel region, and the second epitaxial pattern 440b may include the second upper and lower tapered portions CTU2 and CTL2 tapered toward the channel region. The first upper and lower tapered portions CTU1 and CTL1 may be substantially symmetric to the second upper and lower tapered portions CTU2 and CTL2, respectively, about the channel region.

FIGS. 14A through 14E are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 14A, a mask pattern 505 having an opening 510 may be formed on the semiconductor substrate 100.

Amorphization element ions 520 may be implanted through the opening 510 to form an amorphous region 525 in the semiconductor substrate 100. The amorphization element of the amorphization element ions 520 may include at least one of the amorphization elements used as the amorphization element ions 120 described with reference to FIGS. 1C and 2. An implantation energy, a dose, an implantation direction and a process temperature of the amorphization element ions 520 may be substantially the same as the implantation energy, the dose, the implantation direction and the process temperature of the amorphization element ions 120 described with reference to FIGS. 1C and 2, respectively.

Referring to FIG. 14B, the mask pattern 505 may be removed, and the annealing process described with reference to FIGS. 1D, 2 and 3A may be performed on the semiconductor substrate 100. Thus, a phase change region 527 may be formed.

Referring to FIG. 14C, the phase change region 527 may be removed to form a concave region 530. The phase change region 527 may be removed by the wet etching process described with reference to FIGS. 1E and 2.

Referring to FIG. 14D, a gate dielectric layer may be conformally formed on the semiconductor substrate 100 having the concave region 530, and a gate conductive layer may be formed on the gate dielectric layer to fill the concave region 530. A hard mask layer may be formed on the gate conductive layer. The hard mask layer, the gate conductive layer, and the gate dielectric layer may be successively patterned to form a gate dielectric pattern 535, a gate electrode 540, and a hard mask pattern 545 that are sequentially stacked. The gate electrode 540 may fill the concave region 530.

Referring to FIG. 14E, source/drain regions 555 may be formed in the semiconductor substrate 100 at both sides of the gate electrode 540, respectively. Gate spacers 550 may be formed on both sidewalls of the gate electrode 540, respectively.

According to the present embodiment, a recessed channel region of a transistor may be formed using the method of forming the concave region described in the flowchart of FIG. 2.

FIGS. 15A through 15D are cross-sectional views illustrating a method of manufacturing a semiconductor device according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 15A, a mask pattern 605 having an opening 610 may be formed on the semiconductor substrate 100. The mask pattern 605 may include an oxide and/or a nitride. Amorphization element ions 620 may be implanted through the opening 610 to form an amorphous region 625 defining an active portion ACT in the semiconductor substrate 100. The amorphization element of the amorphization element ions 620 may include at least one of the amorphization elements used as the amorphization element ions 120 described with reference to FIGS. 1C and 2. A dose, an implantation direction and a process temperature of the amorphization element ions 620 may be the same as the dose, the implantation direction and the process temperature of the amorphization element ions 120 described with reference to FIGS. 1C and 2, respectively. In some embodiments, an implantation energy of the amorphization element ions 620 may be within the range of about 10 KeV to about 1 MeV. However, the inventive concept is not limited thereto.

Referring to FIG. 15B, the annealing process described with reference to FIGS. 1D, 2 and 3A may be performed on the semiconductor substrate 100 including the amorphous region 625, thereby forming a phase change region 627.

Referring to FIG. 15C, the phase change region 627 may be removed to form a concave region 630. The phase change region 627 may be removed by the wet etching process described with reference to FIGS. 1E and 2.

Referring to FIG. 15D, a device isolation layer may be formed on the semiconductor substrate 100 to fill the concave region 630. The device isolation layer may be planarized until the mask pattern 605 is exposed, so that a device isolation pattern 635 filling the concave region 630 may be formed. The device isolation pattern 635 may define the active portion ACT. After the device isolation pattern 635 is formed, the mask pattern 605 may be removed.

Subsequently, a gate dielectric pattern 638, a gate electrode 640, and a hard mask pattern 645 that are sequentially stacked on the active portion ACT may be formed. Source/drain regions 655 may be formed in the active portion ACT at both sides of the gate electrode 640, respectively. Gate spacers 650 may be formed on both sidewalls of the gate electrode 640, respectively.

According to the present embodiment, the device isolation pattern 635 defining the active portion ACT may be formed using the method of forming the concave region described in the flowchart of FIG. 2.

The semiconductor devices according to the above-described embodiments of the inventive concept may be realized as logic devices and/or memory devices. If the semiconductor devices according to the above-described embodiments are realized as memory devices, the transistors of the semiconductor devices may be formed in peripheral circuit regions of the memory devices.

The semiconductor devices according to the above-described embodiments may be encapsulated using various packaging techniques. For example, the semiconductor devices according to the aforementioned embodiments may be encapsulated using any one of a package on package (POP) technique, a ball grid array (BGA) technique, a chip scale package (CSP) technique, a plastic leaded chip carrier (PLCC) technique, a plastic dual in-line package (PDIP) technique, a die in wafer pack technique, a die in wafer form technique, a chip-on-board (COB) technique, a ceramic dual in-line package (CERDIP) technique, a plastic metric quad flat package (PMQFP) technique, a plastic quad flat package (PQFP) technique, a small-outline integrated circuit (SOIC) package technique, a shrink small-outline package (SSOP) technique, a thin small-outline package (TSOP) technique, a thin quad flat package (TQFP) technique, a system in package (SIP) technique, a multi-chip package (MCP) technique, a wafer-level fabricated package (WFP) technique and a wafer-level processed stack package (WSP) technique.

The package in which the semiconductor device according to one of the above-described embodiments is disposed may further include a semiconductor device (e.g., a controller and/or a logic device) that controls the semiconductor device according to the one of the above-described embodiments.

FIG. 16 is a block diagram illustrating an electronic system that may include semiconductor devices according to exemplary embodiments of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 16, an electronic system 1100 according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept may include a controller 1110, an input/output (I/O) unit 1120, a memory device 1130, an interface unit 1140 and a data bus 1150. At least two of the controller 1110, the I/O unit 1120, the memory device 1130 and the interface unit 1140 may communicate with each other through the data bus 1150. The data bus 1150 may correspond to a path through which electrical signals are transmitted.

The controller 1110 may include at least one of a microprocessor, a digital signal processor, a microcontroller or another logic device. The other logic device may have a similar function to any one of the microprocessor, the digital signal processor and the microcontroller. When the semiconductor devices according to the above-described embodiments are realized as logic devices, the controller 1110 may include at least one of the semiconductor devices according to the above-described embodiments. The I/O unit 1120 may include a keypad, a keyboard and/or a display unit. The memory device 1130 may store data and/or commands. When the semiconductor devices according to the above-described embodiments are realized as memory devices, the memory device 1130 may include at least one of the semiconductor devices according to above-described embodiments. Additionally, the memory device 1130 may further include another type of semiconductor memory device which is different from the semiconductor devices according to the above-described embodiments. For example, the memory device 1130 may further include a non-volatile memory device (e.g., a magnetic memory device, a phase change memory device, etc.), a dynamic random access memory (DRAM) device and/or a static random access memory (SRAM) device. The interface unit 1140 may transmit electrical data to a communication network or may receive electrical data from a communication network. The interface unit 1140 may operate wirelessly or by wire. For example, the interface unit 1140 may include an antenna and/or transceiver for wireless communication or a physical port for wire communication. Although not shown in the drawings, the electronic system 1100 may further include a fast DRAM device and/or a fast SRAM device which acts as a cache memory for improving an operation of the controller 1110.

The electronic system 1100 may be applied to a personal digital assistant (PDA), a portable computer, a web tablet, a wireless phone, a mobile phone, a digital music player, a memory card or other electronic products. The other electronic products may receive or transmit information data wirelessly or via wire.

FIG. 17 is a block diagram illustrating a memory card that may include semiconductor devices according to exemplary embodiments of the inventive concept.

Referring to FIG. 17, a memory card 1200 according to an exemplary embodiment of the inventive concept may include a memory device 1210. When the semiconductor devices according to the embodiments described above are realized as memory devices, the memory device 1210 may include at least one of the semiconductor devices according to the embodiments described above. In other embodiments, the memory device 1210 may further include other types of semiconductor memory devices which are different from the semiconductor devices according to the embodiments described above. For example, the memory device 1210 may further include a non-volatile memory device (e.g., a magnetic memory device, a phase change memory device, etc.), a DRAM device and/or an SRAM device. The memory card 1200 may include a memory controller 1220 that controls data communication between a host and the memory device 1210.

The memory controller 1220 may include a central processing unit (CPU) 1222 that controls overall operations of the memory card 1200. In addition, the memory controller 1220 may include an SRAM device 1221 that is used as an operation memory of the CPU 1222. Moreover, the memory controller 1220 may further include a host interface unit 1223 and a memory interface unit 1225. The host interface unit 1223 may be configured to include a data communication

protocol between the memory card **1200** and the host. The memory interface unit **1225** may connect the memory controller **1220** to the memory device **1210**. The memory controller **1220** may further include an error check and correction (ECC) block **1224**. The ECC block **1224** may detect and correct errors in data which are read out from the memory device **1210**. Even though not shown in the drawings, the memory card **1200** may further include a read only memory (ROM) device that stores code data to interface with the host. The memory card **1200** may be used as a portable data storage card. Alternatively, the memory card **1200** may realized as a solid state disk (SSD) which may be used as a hard disk of a computer system.

According to some embodiments of the inventive concept, the amorphization element ions may be implanted to form the amorphous region and the amorphous region may be annealed to form the phase change region. Thus, an etch rate of the phase change region may increase. As a result, the phase change region may be easily removed to form the concave region.

According to other embodiments of the inventive concept, the phase change region formed in the semiconductor substrate may be removed by the wet etching process. Thus, an etch selectivity between the phase change region and the semiconductor substrate may be improved to realize a semiconductor device with improved reliability.

While the inventive concept has been particularly shown and described with reference to exemplary embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those of ordinary skill in the art that various changes in form and detail may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the inventive concept as defined by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of manufacturing a transistor of a semiconductor device, comprising:

- forming a gate pattern on a semiconductor substrate;
- forming a spacer on a sidewall of the gate pattern;
- forming a first recess in the semiconductor substrate by wet etching the semiconductor substrate, wherein the first recess is adjacent to the spacer; and
- forming a second recess in the semiconductor substrate by wet etching the first recess, wherein the second recess has tapered sidewalls and at least one tapered sidewall includes a plurality of tapered portions laterally tapered away from the other tapered sidewall.

2. The method of claim **1**, wherein the first recess has curved sidewalls.

3. The method of claim **2**, wherein at least one tapered sidewall has a {111} crystal plane.

4. The method of claim **1**, wherein a portion of the spacer adjacent to a surface of the semiconductor substrate protrudes away from the sidewall of the gate pattern and forms a lower part of the L-shaped spacer.

5. The method of claim **4**, further comprising:

- forming an epitaxial pattern that fills the second recess by performing an epitaxial growth process.

6. The method of claim **5**, wherein a surface of the epitaxial pattern is disposed over the surface of the semiconductor substrate.

7. The method of claim **5**, wherein a doped portion of the epitaxial pattern is a source or a drain of a transistor.

8. The method of claim **7**, wherein a channel region of the transistor is formed between adjacent epitaxial patterns.

9. The method of claim **1**, wherein the gate pattern includes a gate electrode of a transistor.

10. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising:

- forming an amorphous region in a semiconductor substrate by implanting amorphization element ions into the semiconductor substrate;
- forming a phase change region in the semiconductor substrate by annealing the amorphous region;
- forming a first recess in the semiconductor substrate by wet etching the phase change region;
- forming a second recess in the semiconductor substrate by wet etching the first recess, wherein the second recess has tapered sidewall and at least one tapered sidewall includes a plurality of tapered portions laterally tapered away from the other tapered sidewall; and
- forming an epitaxial pattern that fills the second recess by performing an epitaxial growth process.

11. The method of claim **10**, wherein the first recess has curved sidewalls.

12. The method of claim **10**, wherein the annealing temperature is less than 500 degrees Celsius.

13. The method of claim **12**, wherein the annealing temperature is about 350 degrees Celsius to about 450 degrees Celsius.

14. A method of manufacturing a semiconductor device, comprising:

- forming a first recess in a semiconductor substrate by wet etching the semiconductor substrate, wherein the first recess has curved sidewalls;
- forming a second recess in the semiconductor substrate by wet etching the first recess, wherein the second recess has tapered sidewall and at least one tapered sidewall includes a plurality of tapered portions laterally tapered away from the other tapered sidewall; and
- forming an epitaxial pattern that fills the second recess by performing an epitaxial growth process, wherein the epitaxial pattern has tapered sidewalls corresponding to the tapered sidewalls of the second recess.

15. The method of claim **14**, wherein the first recess has a concave shape.

16. The method of claim **14**, wherein before wet etching the semiconductor substrate to form the first recess, the method comprises:

- forming an amorphous region in the semiconductor substrate by implanting amorphization element ions into the semiconductor substrate; and
 - forming a phase change region in the semiconductor substrate by annealing the amorphous region,
- wherein the first recess is formed by wet etching the phase change region.

17. The method of claim **16**, wherein the annealing is performed at a temperature below 500 degrees Celsius.

18. The method of claim **17**, wherein the temperature is about 350 degrees Celsius to about 450 degrees Celsius.

19. The method of claim **16**, wherein the amorphization element ions are implanted into the semiconductor substrate by a vertical or tilt implantation method.

20. The method of claim **16**, wherein an etchant used to wet etch the semiconductor substrate to form the first recess includes at least one of hydrofluoric acid (HF), nitric acid (HNO₃) and acetic acid (CH₃COOH).